IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

Summer 2015

'Football Hero ' (Lynda Miller 2015, TB) - Photo by Jim Morris

Volume 96, No. 3

www.irises.org

The American Iris Society is a non-profit institution incorporated February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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AIS Membership Information

(see page 61 for section membership information)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual Single: $25.00 / Dual: $30.00
Triennial Single: $60.00 / Dual: $75.00
Life Single: $1000.00 / Dual: $1500.00

SENIOR LIFE (AGE 65+)

15% discount. (For Dual Senior Life, both members must be 65 or older.)
15% Senior Discount applies only to Life Membership.

YOUTH RATES (UNDER AGE 19)
Youth, without Bulletin: $5.00
Youth, with Bulletin: $9.00

OVERSEAS RATES

Annual Single: $30.00 / Dual: $35.00
Triennial Single: $65.00/ Dual: $80.00

May be paid by check, VISA, or Mastercard. Overseas memberships include bulk air mail to country of destination followed by first class postage within the country, and is payable in U.S. currency.

Schreiner's Cut Flowers For Sale During Convention Tour
-photo by Betty Stephens

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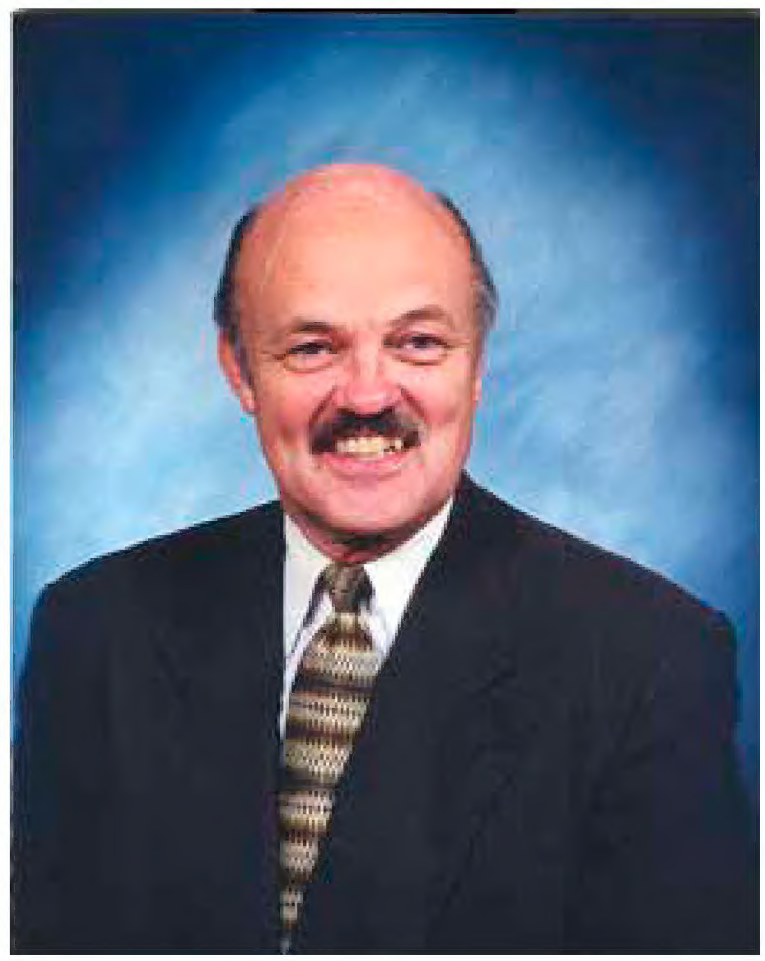
JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI



In this issue I welcome Jaime Cloud of Shreveport, LA as our guest editor. She is a graduate of Centenary College of Louisiana and is sole proprietor of Cloud 9 Designs, L.L.C. She is editor and layout designer of *Fleur de Lis*, the quarterly journal of The Society for Louisiana Iris.

The world is run by those who show up! Thank you to everyone who "showed up!" The AIS convention in May in Portland was quite an event with 637 attendees representing almost all Regions, as well as France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Ecuador. I was especially pleased to see sixteen of our twenty two Regional Vice Presidents in attendance. They are at the heart of our society representing the diverse interests of our membership. The convention tours went smoothly and the various section programs were well attended.

At the Median Iris Society board meeting, Jean Witt, 94, of Region 13 was presented the prestigious Bennett C. Jones Median Hybridizing Award to rousing acclaim by the audience. The panel program on tall bearded irises by Joe Ghio, Keith Keppel and Barry Blyth was a smashing success, so much so that the room couldn't handle the over 400 people who attended. Therefore, the sliding doors to the next room were opened up for the overflow. When each of the panel was asked what they thought their individual iris legacy might be, the answers were most revealing and I hope someone recorded them in depth. In short, the answers were: Keith Keppel, his maintaining and popularizing of iris pedigrees by various iris hybridizers and beautiful irises that will grow; Barry Blyth, his decades old pink amoena breeding and spreading the beauty of irises in his country of Australia; Joe Ghio, hybridizing of beautiful flowers and of course, "bubble ruffling."

After operating under deficit budgets for several years, the board felt it necessary to raise our print membership dues essentially $5.00 individual and $10.00 dual effective October 1, 2015. The complete new dues structure will be printed elsewhere.

The board adopted a resolution recognizing and thanking the "Wiki Heroes" for their dedication, willingness, and helpfulness in updating, correcting and maintaining the Iris Encyclopedia. Our thanks go to Betsy Higgins, John Black, Terry Laurin and Alain Franco.

At the request of the AIS Registrar, John Jones, the board approved a motion to define "iris introduction" as "the offering for sale to the public," and that: A. Introduction information must include Iris name, date, price, and seller's contact information. B. The Registrant or introducer must send a printed copy of the catalog, list, advertisement or webpage, introduction page and the webpage URL to the AIS Registrar by first class mail. That the printed information includes the information referenced in paragraph A above. C. That social media sites, because they are particularly ephemeral and of limited audience not be considered as a public offering. D. That offering for sale at an auction not be considered a public sale.

In other actions, the board approved Tim Moore as RVP for Region 8, Minnesota and Wisconsin; that the 2019 AIS Spring Convention be held in Region 14; that the AIS Library be named "The American Iris Society Hager-DuBose Memorial Library," and that the Novelty Iris Society be approved as a Section of the AIS. Subsequent to the meetings, the board approved the president's appointment of Gordon Carver of Region 17, Texas as the new advertising editor.

What can you do for AIS? Remember to utilize the progressive fundraising program Bloomin' Bucks when you order bulbs or plants with Brent and Becky's Bulbs. Their advertisements outline the process that can support AIS, one of the 387 participating organizations. Get your orders in early as no fundraising orders will be taken for an estimated period of time between Mid-November and Mid-January. And if you buy from Amazon, enroll in smile.amazon.com and designate AIS as your charity of choice. A small percentage of your purchase price will automatically be donated to AIS and it doesn't cost anything.

"To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often."

-Winston Churchill.

Bulletin Board

AIS INSURANCE - BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go to www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email. There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes. As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>.

GROUP EXEMPTION STATUS

The AIS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Even better, it holds a "group" exemption under IRS rules. This means that subordinate organizations such as local AIS affiliates, regions and sections can join in the group exemption and share our tax-exempt status. Interested? Go to the AIS website and download the 501(c)(3) information packet for more information.

First, go to the AIS website at www.irises.org. Click on Member Services, then Society Information, then on AIS Documents. From the list of documents, select "Information for AIS subordinate organizations requesting IRS group exemption."

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATE INFORMATION - DWAYNE BOOTH, AIS TREASURER

The American Iris Society at its Spring 2015 Board of Directors Meeting adopted a membership rate increase effective the start of our next fiscal year, October 1, 2015. The rates before and after the increase are displayed below. There has no been change in Life and Senior Life Membership rates nor in e-membership rates. The increase is the first in more than 10 years and is driven by changes in the economy. For example, AIS had, for years, substantial interest earnings from investment of its Restricted Cash accounts. The accounts' principal amounts are dedicated to specific activities and expenditures. One example of this is the Clark Cosgrove Memorial Youth Awards which are annually awarded to three deserving youth members. The principal is reserved for paying the awards but the interest earnings go to the General Fund. Since 2008 the Federal Reserve Board has kept interest rates next to zero to encourage economic expansion. So AIS get little interest earnings because higher rate Certificates of Deposit have matured and been replaced with ones that earn very little interest. Costs, on the other hand, continue to rise. For example, a first class US postage stamp cost 37 cents in 2005; now it is 49 cents. That is a 32% increase. Members are therefore encouraged to renew their annual memberships before October 1st and/or convert the annual memberships to triennials. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 425-743-3066 or DBooAnn1@msn.com.

Category	Period	Current Rate	New Rate 10/15	Period	Current Rate	New Rate 10/15
Single	Annual	$25.00	$30.00	Triennial	$60.00	$70.00
Dual	Annual	$30.00	$35.00	Triennial	$75.00	$85.00
Overseas Single	Annual	$30.00	$35.00	Triennial	$65.00	$75.00
Overseas Dual	Annual	$35.00	$40.00	Triennial	$80.00	$90.00
Youth (with Bulletin)	Annual	$5.00	$8.00	Triennial	N/A	N/A
Youth (without Bulletin)	Annual	$9.00	$12.00	Triennial	N/A	N/A

Annual AIS President's Letter

-BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

This is my third and last annual letter to the AIS membership as my term as president expires at the fall board of directors meeting. It has been an eventful year and I have enjoyed meeting so many of our dedicated members. We continue to have lengthy board meetings at convention that are open to all as we modernize our society in the digital age. Our electronic newsletter *News and Views* has greatly increased our communication with our membership. With the recent resignation of our *IRISES* editor, we have arranged for guest editors for the summer and fall issues. The AIS Encyclopedia continues to grow in content and usage throughout the horticultural world. Our Facebook and blog efforts also continue to grow. We still need young members to commit to help our society, especially in electronic services. There must be someone out there who can chair this function. It has been two years and counting in our search to find someone to take on this responsibility. In June 2015, AIS will for the second time be a contributing participant in the Coalition of American Plant Societies horticultural meetings.

As you know from my *IRISES* articles on my trip "down under," I represented AIS at both the Iris Society of Australia's October 2014 convention and that of the New Zealand Iris Society. It was great to see 26 of their members reciprocate and come to Portland to our May 2015 Iris Convention. I sincerely thank all of you who have assisted our society during my term as president.

Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society, and four persons are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS Bylaws, a five-member Nominating Committee recommends to the AIS Officers and Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Nominating Committee consists of five members selected each year by their respective parent bodies to serve for one year: two directors selected by the Board of Directors; two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors; and one section representative selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 2015 spring meeting held in Portland, OR, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2015 nominees for regular three-year terms expiring in the fall of 2018.

Candidate #1 Ron Cosner (Region 21, Iowa) incumbent
Candidate #2 Bob Pries (Region 4, N. Carolina) incumbent
Candidate #3 Al Elliott (Region 17, Texas)
Candidate #4 Lois Rose (Region 4, Virginia)

The Bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before **August 31, 2015**.

Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before September 30, 2015, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 30, 2015. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

...Jim Morris, President

Check out the AIS Blog!

http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/

Youth Views

-BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

Congratulations to Faith Winzer from Region 18 who was chosen as the winner of the 2014 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Faith attended the AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon and received her award at the closing banquet. First runner up of the award is Sarah Green of Region 21, and the second runner up is Hope Winzer from Region 18, Faith's younger sister. The adults who nominated these young irisarians spoke of their service to local clubs, hybridizing efforts, growing many different varieties of irises in their own gardens, and promoting the American Iris Society. I look forward to hearing about them many times in the future as they continue their iris activities.

Annually, the American Iris Society Foundation sponsors the Ackerman Essay Contest. This year's topic was "If you were an iris, which one would you be and why?" Winner in the Senior Division is Colin Campbell from Region 4. Junior Division winner is Grace Raymond from Region 18. Look for the winning essays in IRISES. There were a total of 47 entrants this year. Colin and Grace both received a $100 prize and all of our entrants received a certificate and a new iris.

The Greater Portland Iris Society members were the host of the 2015 AIS Convention. There were 4 young people who attended the convention and I was able to spend some time with them. As I already mentioned, Faith Winzer from Kansas attended. Michael Kowalchyk from Oklahoma was there as was Faith Donnell from Texas. New to AIS is Jake Solms. Eight months ago Jake came to Oklahoma from Ecuador in South America. His mother is married to Hugh Stout of Stout Iris Gardens and Jake has been infected by the "iris virus" in a BIG way. Hugh has been teaching him about hybridizing and Jake is overwhelmed by all the beautiful flowers. Jake and Faith W. hung out together in the gardens and they got a special tour of Schreiners' seedling beds by none other than Ray Schreiner! It is so important for young people to be mentored by interested adults. We need more adults to begin 'planting the seeds' of interest in irises into our youth members so that our society can continue to grow.

There are approximately 331 youth members in AIS. Quite a few of them belong to Classroom Iris Programs. One such program is at the Cobb Mountain Elementary School 4th graders in Region 14 (northern California). The coordinator, Cindy Leonard, is really encouraging the children to expand their knowledge with very creative ideas. The last coloring contest picture was a needlepoint pattern, so Cindy had her class study needlework, in addition to the colors and patterns of irises. Youth members at Cobb Mountain help maintain a large garden that supplies many of the fresh vegetables for the school's salad bar in addition to the iris garden. Once school is out for the summer the youth members dig their irises and take them home to plant in their home garden. This year they were able to enter the iris show at their sponsoring club, the Santa Rosa Iris Society, where this 4th grade class won the Youth "Best in Show" award. Quite a busy group!

There are eight more Classroom Iris Programs, totaling almost half of the youth members in AIS. They range in diversity from a Cub Scout Troop to 4th and 5th grade classes in a school art program for children with special needs. All of these programs, including the individual clubs that encourage youth members, depend on very unique and creative adults who use irises to teach and inspire children. Thanks to all of you for your dedication to our AIS Youth members.

Do you like to take pictures? The annual AIS Photo Contest is open to youth members in special youth categories. Visit the AIS website, www.irises.org for the details of this year's contest!

The 2015 AIS Convention Committee will be sending newer irises to all AIS Youth members when they dig the convention irises in late August. It has become a tradition for each convention committee to send irises from the guest gardens to the AIS Youth members so that the youth can grow recent introductions. Thank you Greater Portland Iris Society!
Due to the rising costs of printing and postage the membership dues for youth members has been raised by the AIS Board of Directors. Beginning October 1, 2015, single youth dues will be $8 per year and membership with the magazine IRISES will be $12 per year. This is still a great bargain, and you can send in multiple years at one time.

If you would like to start a Classroom Iris Program with a youth group, please contact me for information at region15kids@hotmail.com, or visit the Youth website at www.AISYouth.com for information about activities for young people. I hope to meet you in a garden someday. Happy Irising!

These students at Coarsegold Elementary Classroom Iris Project (CIP) won irises in the weekly drawing on Dr. Seuss Day with their teacher Mrs. Hoover.

Ackerman Essay Winners

IF YOU WERE AN IRIS WHICH ONE WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

By Grace Raymond, age 10

If I were an iris, I would choose to be Millennium Falcon. This 2008 Wister Medal winning iris appeals to me because of its name and beauty.

My first reason to be this iris is because of the great beauty displayed in this iris. The colors of this iris remind me of the colors in our country's flag. Sometimes irises are referred to as flags or old flags. The markings on the falls of Millennium Falcon and other certain irises are called broken color. The broken color on this iris reminds me of shooting stars. The markings of the broken color on this iris also remind me of paintbrush strokes. I love to paint. One of my dreams is to become an artist someday, and if I were an artist I would paint beautiful irises like Millennium Falcon.

My second reason to be this iris is because of the word falcon in its name. The falcon reminds me of freedom because it flies freely in the sky. It also reminds me of those who fight for our country's freedom, including my brother whom in a few years will graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point and join many others in fighting for our country's freedom. Someday I hope to follow in my brother's footsteps and go to West Point. Maybe someday I will graduate and become a soldier to protect our country's freedom. There are many people who have died fighting for our freedom. I think the falcon is a symbol of remembering their bravery.

My third reason to be this iris is because of the word millennium in its name. The millennium is very special because a new millennium only occurs once every one thousand years. I think only very special people will experience a new millennium. I was born in the new millennium. I think I have a special connection with this iris because the year I was born, 2004, Millennium Falcon received the American Iris Society Award of Merit. This iris is special because it was introduced in 2000, the first year of the new millennium.

That is why I think this iris is special and why I would like to be this iris. This iris inspires me greatly to do many things that I someday hope to accomplish. I know that Millennium Falcon is probably named after the ship in the movie Star Wars, but to me it means so much more.

IF I WERE AN IRIS

by Colin Campbell, age 16

Pulling the covers around me in bed, I pondered what it would be like to be an iris. How would it feel to send up a bloomstalk? What would it be like to grow simultaneously in gardens around the world? If I were an iris, which kind would I want to be?

Soon I was walking in a garden filled with irises. I found a wooden bench and sat down near a Japanese iris and an X Robusta. The Robusta was gloating, saying, "Look here, you won't bloom for another month, and if the gardener doesn't water you well, you won't bloom at all. Now look at me. I am vigorous. I don't need extra watering. If I need more space, I just crowd out the plant next to me. Which is what I might do to you, if you don't behave yourself."

"Shame!" said the Japanese. "I'm glad that I'm not an invasive conqueror like you. I would rather be an Aril and live in the desert than be you. I never suffocate my neighbors. How dreadful! It is a pity we plants haven't any police, or I'd have you arrested!"

Moving on, I saw a rebloomer crying, tears streaming down its stalk. "Oh, how I wish I was a spring-only bloomer," it wept. "I must work twice as hard to bloom multiple times a year. What I mind most is having the weather turn frosty when I'm sending up another rebloom stalk. Oh, the icy agony of it! Just thinking about it makes me dread the coming autumn. It is hard to be a rebloomer!"

The plant kept wailing, but I wandered off to look at a gorgeous row of Siberians. They nodded graciously to me. I nodded back and we contemplated each other like dignitaries at a garden party. Then one deep blue flower broke the silence. "Friend," it said, "You have come to the best part of the garden. We Siberians are tall and stately. We are graceful and refined. We are not loud and gaudy like those Bearded Irises that receive all the attention. They are all very well for a bright splash of color, but for soft, magical beauty, Siberians are not to be matched. Our leaves are beautiful, while the Bearded get ugly brown spots! Think of it!"

I shuddered at the thought of having leaf spot. I didn't want to be a Bearded iris, though I enjoyed growing them. The habitat of an Aril sounded too dry. Nor would I ever want to crowd out my neighbors; being an X Robusta was out of the question. Japanese irises were needy, and much as I loved rebloomers, theirs seemed a life of sorrow. But a Siberian.... I woke and saw a stream of light pouring through my window and thought, "Yes, if I were an iris, I would want to be a Siberian of violet hue, fluttering gracefully against an azure sky."

Section Happenings

-BY GARY WHITE, AIS SECTION AND COOPERATING SOCIETY LIAISON, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Many of the Sections and Cooperating Societies included their 2015 Symposium Ballots or Popularity Polls with their Spring publications. The 2015 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium will be posted on the AIS website, but Ballots for other types of irises are available from the various Societies. Deadlines and rules vary with societies, but please take the time to vote these ballots for those irises that you grow and love. It's a great way to make your voice heard, and most also welcome your comments in addition to your votes.

• **Dwarf Iris Society.** The Dwarf Iris Society has a new DIS Conservator, Charlie Carver. This summer, Charlie is conducting a survey of Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises to gather data to assemble a databank of all known MDB iris. If you grow MDB irises, please include those irises in this databank by completing the survey or contacting Charlie with your MDB iris information. Charlie is also now chair of National Collections for the American Iris Society, part of the Public Relations Committee.

• **Historic Iris Preservation Society.** HIPS elected a new President, Vice-President, Secretary, and two new Directors at the annual membership meeting in Portland, OR. Cathy Egerer is the new HIPS President and hails from Grand Marais, Michigan. Dave Prichard is now Vice-President and Linda Bell is the Secretary of the Society. Judy Keisling is continuing as Treasurer. Northeast Director is Dorothy Stiefel and the North Central Director is now DeLane Langton. Distinguished Service Awards were given to Jean Richter, longtime Secretary of the Society, and to Mike Unser, past webmaster of HIPS for several years.

• **Novelty Iris Society.** The Novelty Iris Society (NIS) is now an official Section of the American Iris Society. Officers of the new society are Bonnie Nichols – President, Don Rude – Vice-President, Shirley Trio-Probst – Secretary, and Debra Bilberry – Treasurer. Please see the article on this new AIS Section in this issue of *IRISES*.

• **Society for Japanese Irises.** The new Japanese Iris checklist is completed. It is $20 mailed, and a PDF version is available for $10. This is the first major printed update of the JI Checklist since 2006.
A new CD is also available and is a presentation on Japanese Irises, given at the 2015 AIS Convention in Portland.

• **Society for Louisiana Irises.** The SLI Service Award was presented to Rebecca Wong during the SLI Convention in Lafayette, LA for her services as the society's webmaster for many years. Most recently, Rebecca updated the SLI website to make it possible to accept PayPal and credit cards.

• **Tall Bearded Iris Society**. Following elections this spring, the officers of TBIS are now Hugh Stout – President, Ron Cosner – Vice-President, Elladan McLeester – Secretary, and Phil Williams – Treasurer. The six Directors are: Tim Moore, Dennis Dreyer, Judy Schneider, Jack Worel, Barbara Nicodemus, and Judy Nunn.

In Memoriam

On behalf of The American Iris Society, we extend our condolences and respects to the families and friends of these deceased iris lovers:

Carolyn S. Bridges	Raleigh, North Carolina
Margaret Cameron	Longo, Firenze Italy
Albert C. Detwiler	Tucson, Arizona
Jerry Kuck	San Diego, California
Kitty Lack	Plano, Texas

Novelty Iris Society Announcement

BY BONNIE J. NICHOLS, PRESIDENT OF THE NOVELTY IRIS SOCIETY, TEXAS

In Portland, Oregon, at the American Iris Society convention this past May, the Board of Directors of the AIS unanimously approved the Novelty Iris Society (the "Society") as a section of the AIS. Prior to AIS approval, the Society was incorporated as a domestic non-profit corporation and received its EIN from the IRS.

At the Novelty Iris Society meeting held May 22, 2015, by-laws were approved as published in the April 2015 Society newsletter. Officers and three of the directors of the Society were also approved.

The officers approved include:
Bonnie J. Nichols – President
Don Rude – Vice President
Shirley Trio-Probst – Secretary
Debra Bilberry – Treasurer

Kathy Wade has agreed to continue as our Newsletter Editor.

Directors approved were:
Northwest (Regions 11, 12, 13, 20) – Steve Spreight
Southwest (Regions 14, 15, 23) – Riley Probst
South Central (Regions, 10, 17, 18, 22) - Mary Ellen Reed

Directors for the following regions will be open until the next general membership meeting:
Northeast (Regions 1, 2, 3)
Southeast (Regions 4, 5, 7, 24)
North Central (Regions 6, 8, 9, 21)

Note: Persons interested in more information about the role of a director for The Novelty Iris Society can contact Bonnie J. Nichols at bjnhtn@aol.com.

One committee chairman was approved at the meeting. Don Rude will chair the committee to review and recommend updates to the AIS Judges Training program. Other committees under consideration include:
Display gardens
Photography
Fund Raisers
Logo
Electronic communications (website and Facebook)

Our first fundraiser was a live auction during our Society meeting. A big thanks to Cheryl Deaton and Hooker Nichols for donating space-age and flattie irises for our fundraiser.
Dues were set as follows:

SINGLE (annual)	$ 15.00
DUAL (annual)	$ 20.00
SINGLE (triennial)	$ 40.00
DUAL (triennial)	$ 50.00
INTERNATIONAL (single & electronic)	$ 15.00
LIFE (single)	$150.00

Please send your 2015 dues to:
Debra S. Bilberry, Treasurer
P O Box 252
Los Alamos, N.M. 87544-0252
Email: treasurernoveltyiris@yahoo.com

*NOTE: Please include your email address to receive communications and newsletters from the Society.

We would appreciate articles for our newsletter. Examples of articles include discussing your hybridizing program, a friend's hybridizing program, discussion of your iris collection, and gardens you have visited. Do you have pictures of novelty irises (introduced or seedlings)?

Did you attend a spring regional or national convention and have pictures to share? Did a Novelty iris win Best of Show at your iris show? If so, we would love to include names and pictures in our newsletter.

What were the best performing novelty irises in your garden this bloom season? What new novelty irises do you plan on adding to your garden this coming year?

If you don't have computer access to scan pictures or write an article – that isn't a problem. We will be happy to help. You may send your written article and pictures to Kathy Wade, Newsletter Editor
Email: nisnewsletter@yahoo.com

Be watching for our next newsletter this fall. Until then - enjoy seeing the flowers bloom, the weeds grow, and seeing life each day as a new opportunity to share our favorite flowers with friends.

Median Iris Society News

BY DEBRA STRAUSS, TEXAS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING MIS IN PORTLAND! Attendance at the MIS general meeting was fantastic! Thank you all for attending. Paul Black kept us all on the edge of our seats with his program "LOOKING FOR LOVE-Finding Fertility in Unexpected Places". We would like to sincerely thank him for his always excellent all-around support.

We learned the presentation of Bennett C. Jones Award for Median Hybridizing was given to Jean Witt by longtime friend and student, Stephanie Markham, Honorary Awards Chairman at the MIS board meeting. We would like to thank Debby Cole who came with Jean Witt (who is 93 years young) to Portland and our board meeting to receive this well-deserved award.

'Portland Pink' (Black 2015, SDB)
-photo by Paul Black

Again we would like to thank Paul Black and Mid-America for potting and donating forty beautiful standard dwarf median iris for MIS to sell for a fundraiser! And most of them were in bloom. The gorgeous little lady went fast! Paul as usual your support is awesome. We raised $576! (one rascal stole a lovely Portland Pink...I hope it blooms in profusion and they feel guilt all year long)

We would also like to thank the many hybridizers who donated SDB, MDB, IB, MTB, Dwarf Siberian, Species-X, and Aril-Median as well as a Medianite autographed by 2014 MTB Dykes Medal winner Chuck Bunnell (with a picture of beautiful 'Dividing Line'). We raised $469 in our silent auction with iris donated by Across Iris Lanes-Mel Cross; Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens-Terry & Barbara Aitken; Joe Pye Weeds Garden-Marty Schaefer & Jan Sacks; Lauer's Flowers-Larry Lauer; Jean Morris through Winterberry Gardens; Abbey Gardens-Nancy Price; Cindy Rust; Superstition Iris Garden-Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan and Chuck Bunnell. We will be having another small silent auction of medians, etc. in Newark New Jersey at the AIS Convention May 23-28, 2016. Hybridizers, I will take your support iris donations and make your coupons again! My new email is debbie@loveirises.com! Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you to the 12 people who joined or re-upped their MIS membership in Portland. And thanks to the four people who purchased the *Median Iris Society Medianite 50th Anniversary History Edition.* (You too can purchase one in the AIS Storefront Online!)

A big warm thank you to everyone who bid on our silent auction, purchased 'Portland Pink', joined MIS, attended our board and general meeting, or just came by to visit. MIS appreciates you all!

The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana, Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, Region 6 and the Median Iris Society, Section of the American Iris Society, will host a Median Iris Mini-convention May 18-20, 2017. Over three days, all convention attendees will tour five gardens and visit a Purdue University Experimental Agriculture Farm. Hybridizers of median iris, including Arilbred medians, are currently sending rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction to fill the guest iris beds for everyone to see. Mark your calendars and come see the Medians before the 2017 AIS Convention.

CALLING ALL AIS AFFILIATES! You have a great opportunity to help MIS and your club! We are offering a great way to receive two 2016, Paul Black, Median Iris Introductions! You can use them as door prizes, in raffles, iris auctions, sales or anything else your club wants!!! HOW? Well, for a $100.00 donation to the Median Iris Society by June 1, 2016 your club will receive from Paul, TWO 2016 MEDIAN IRIS (postage free). Send your $100 donation, along with your affiliate name and address (where to send the iris) to Debra Strauss, 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707 by June 1, 2016.

Jean Witt – 2015 Winner of the Bennett C. Jones Award for Outstanding Median Hybridizing

BY STEPHANIE MARKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Jean Witt received the 2015 Bennett C. Jones Award for Outstanding Median Hybridizing this year, in recognition of her long years and many contributions to median iris hybridizing. The award was presented to Jean at the Median Iris Society Board meeting by Stephanie Markham, Honorary Awards Chair.

Jean Witt has been involved in the growing, breeding and promotion of irises for more than seven decades. Her botany degree and genetics training sparked an interest in hybridizing in the 40's, with the irises she had purchased during WWII providing interesting subjects for experiments. In the 50's, when Alice White (the White of the Williamson-White Award/Medal) was looking for people interested in breeding MTBs (or Table Irises, as they were more commonly called then) Jean was among the first to join her round robin. She and other robin members spent a great deal of time and energy tracking down and evaluating old varieties and figuring out how to breed new ones in the petite configurations they wanted, leading to the establishment of MTBs as a separate class and the definition of the MTB standards.

Jean joined the Median Iris Society soon after it was founded and has contributed greatly over the years, applying and sharing her well-deep knowledge of botany, genetics, and iris species with everyone, both in print and in personal correspondence. In the 1960s and 70s, when it was difficult to market non-TB irises, Jean joined forces with other breeders to put out a price list of dwarf and median irises. She obtained a nursery license and continued to market MTBs and species until her husband's death in 1984. She has written numerous articles and provided pictures, watercolors, and line drawings for many publications such as *The Medianite*, the AIS *Bulletin*, and several section publications (SIGNA, HIPS, SPCNI and others) as well as for books such as *The World of Irises* and Currier McEwen's *The Siberian Iris*. She has given innumerable talks on irises to local garden clubs, plant societies and elsewhere, is an AIS judge, and has mentored numerous iris hybridizers and enthusiasts, donating freely of her time, talent, knowledge, experience and irises. She received the AIS Distinguished Service Medal in 1983 and the AIS Hybridizer Award in 2012.

Jean has registered 32 MTBs and two BBs, as well as two PCNs, five siberians, five species irises and 14 species hybrids. She has also introduced five MTBs on behalf of four other people. Her first MTB, registered in 1962 and introduced in 1966, was the white and pale blue amoena 'Ice Fairy' ('Pewee' X 'Mrs. Andrist'), which won an HM in 1968, a Judge's Choice (a popularity vote of recent introductions that became an informal recommendation of quality) in 1969, and the Williamson-White Award in 1973. Her bright yellow MTB, 'Spanish Coins' (1976), won an HM in 1977 and the Williamson-White Award in 1981. Both of these irises are still widely grown and used in MTB breeding today, as are several of her other MTB introductions, many of which have either bearded species or antique TBs (or both) in their pedigrees.

Jean continues to hybridize even into her ninth decade. Her most recent MTB introduction is 'Little White Tiger', a petite white and violet-striped amoena, which was introduced in 2013 by Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. And some of her most recent MTB seedlings were on display in the convention gardens.

In sum, Jean has been a true median iris pioneer over the course of more than seven decades, and continues to experiment with her iris hybridizing, explore iris species and actively participate in the discussion about irises to this day. Thank you, Jean, for all of your contributions to median irises!

Stephanie Markham presenting the 2015 Bennett C. Jones Award to Jean Witt -photo by Jim Morris

2014 Michael Foster Memorial Plaque Awarded to Jim Waddick of AIS Region 18

BY JIM MURRAIN, MISSOURI

I am happy to pass on the news that James Waddick has been named the winner of the 2014 Michael Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society. This award is named after Sir Michael Foster who was one of the first modern scientists to study Iris taxonomy. He was intensely interested in species, species crosses and their taxonomic implications. He was a mentor to William R. Dykes.

This award is the highest award of the British Iris Society and considered more prestigious than the Dykes Medal. Awarded annually since 1927 (except for a few 'no award' years) there are currently only four other Americans who have won this award: Keith Keppel (1993), Dave Niswonger, (2000), Terry Aitken (2008) and Robert Hollingworth (2011). Alan McMurtrie of Canada is also a recent winner (2010). This is an international award that represents people who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge of the genus Iris.

Present and past winners represent many countries around the world as well as a wide vision of the academic science, horticulture and scholarship of Iris. Jim has published widely on iris and other plant topics and is the recipient of many awards including four medals from the American Iris Society. He continues actively to pursue new species, new introductions and educational ventures.

Congratulations !!

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www.aisfoundation.org

'Football Hero'

'Blackwater'

'Moose Tracks'

2015 Convention Award Cup Winners

TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED

PRESIDENT'S CUP – Best In-Region Iris

Football Hero (Lynda Miller 2015, TB) 78
Blackwater (Schreiners 2014, TB) ..... 16 (tie)
Moose Tracks (Lynda Miller 2015, MTB) ..... 16 (tie)
Bright Sunshiny Day (Thomas Johnson 2010, TB) ..... 15 (tie)
Care To Dance (Schreiners 2013, TB) ..... 15 (tie)

FRANKLIN COOK CUP – Best Out-Of-Region Iris

Swans In Flight (Bob Hollingworth 2006, SIB) *See Back Cover For Image 68
Tijuana Taxi (Doug Kanarowski 2014, TB) 61
Golden Snitch (Bob Skaggs 2014, TB) ..... 13 (tie)
Why Cows Gossip (Doug Kanarowski 2015, TB) ..... 13 (tie)

BEN R. HAGER MEDIAN CUP – Best Median Iris

Moose Tracks (Lynda Miller 2015, MTB) 121
Sari's Dance (Ginny Spoon 2008, MTB) 63
Hoosier Belle (Chuck Bunnell 2012, MTB) 38

Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup - Best Iris Seedling

Royston Rubies (Adam Cordes, TB) ..... 35 votes
Rubicon (Carla Lankow SPEC-X) ..... 22 votes (tie)
Seedling 0439 (Doug Kanarowski TB) ..... 22 votes (tie)

*All photos courtesy of Jim Morris

'Tijuana Taxi'

'Golden Snitch'

'Why Cows Gossip'

Pre-Convention Garden Tours

BY MARY BARRELL, NEW ZEALAND

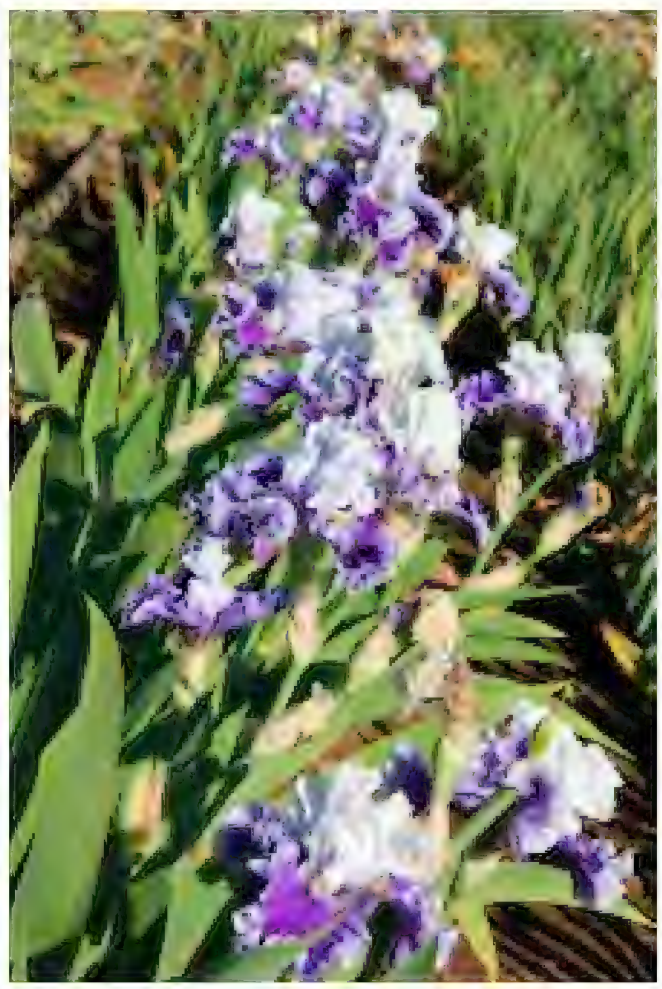
Keith Keppel Garden

The first garden on our tour was Keith Keppel's, located at Salem, at least an hour's drive from our hotel in Portland. Keith's garden features his own seedlings and introductions plus the introductions of Philip Remare and Barry Blyth (Australia).

Alighting from the bus, we were greeted by a huge bed of bearded iris stretching up a slight rise with a further garden bed containing seedlings behind the house. Keith had also thoughtfully set up a display of blooms of his 2015 releases plus some numbered seedlings in the glasshouse which doubled for the day as the refreshment "tent."

'Volcanic Glow' (Keppel 2012, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

Where to start? So many blooms, so little time. 'Billowing Waves' (Keith Keppel 2015, TB) was the first to catch the eye with the row covered in bloom. It had bluish white standards, purple blue falls with bluish white edges. 'My Lady's Manor' (Phillip Remare 2013, TB) – was white to pale blue with candelabra branching. A classic iris. 'Blowing Kisses' (Keppel 2007, TB) - had pretty true pink standards, white and orchid pink falls. 'Volcanic Glow' (Keppel 2012, TB) - was a reddish luminata, yellow edges. I particularly liked the dark stems. One seedling to catch my eye among many was 10 81B 66-35A X 06-35C Violet standards with pale lemon falls. It had wonderful branching and bud count.



'Billowing Waves' (Keppel 2015, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

Kevin Vaughn Garden

We moved on to the garden of Kevin Vaughan, south of Salem. Kevin moved to this property six years ago, deer fenced it, and removed the deer tracks down which rivers of water would flow. This is not just an iris garden or a hybridiser's garden, it combines both. Kevin hybridizes frilly dianthus (pinks) and most irises. One garden was jam-packed with his miniature tall bearded (MTB) seedlings. Kevin is also an award winning hybridiser of Sempervirans.

'Butterscotch Fizz' (Schafer/Sacks 2013, SIB)
-photo by Jim Morris

Beside the house entrance was a water garden featuring 'Lakeside Ghost' (Chad Harris 2012, Species) a lilac and white laevigata, and 'Red Velvet

Elvis' (Kevin Vaughn 1997) a velvet wine red Louisiana (LA). Behind the house were Kevin's Pacific Coast Native seedlings. Further around, MTB iris included 'Dividing Line' (Charles Bunnell 2005) with standards of pale blue-violet, falls pale purple with a pale dividing line (Dykes Medal 2014) and the wonderfully named 'Going Dotty' (Stephanie Markham 2010). Its standards are cream sanded with dark red-violet dotting. Falls are the same on white ground. The last side of the house had Siberian iris in full bloom. I spotted 'Something Shocking' (Robert Hollingworth 2013) standards deep red-violet, falls deep red-violet rim with a white centre, veined red-violet and beautifully ruffled and 'Butterscotch Fizz' (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks 2013). It has light yellow standards. The falls are pink over yellow creating a light orange effect.

Moving up the hill were Louisianas, spurias, and Siberian iris (both 28 and 40 chromosome) which were only in bud but truly beautiful when revisited for the Siberian Convention. Further back, the tall bearded iris were in full bloom.

Iris Hill Scene at Oregon Garden
-photo by M Lango

Oregon Garden

Our final stop was the Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon. This is an 80 acre garden. In the 1940s the Oregon Association of Nurseries explored the idea of developing a botanical garden. However, it wasn't until 1995 that a site was selected. An agreement was formed which included the development of a wetland system to recycle the city's treated wastewater. 200,000 gallons of water are used per day and 34 different ponds have been developed. A guided tram tour of 1.4 miles is available to provide a garden overview. There are 700 species of conifers, 110 species of fuchsia, a pet friendly garden and a drought tolerant garden among many others. There is also a Frank Lloyd Wright house and a Reception Centre in the old Arabian stables.

'Oceanside Sparkle' (Richard Ernst 2011, TB)
-photo by Chuck Chapman

For the iris lovers, we found Cooley's Iris Walk. In full bloom were 'Oceanside Sparkle' (Richard Ernst 2011, TB) - eggshell white standards with a gilt rim, falls white with a yellow band and 'Dylan' (Larry Johnson 2009, TB) - standards pale creamy blue infused yellow, falls have a purple centre with a pale rim, yellow beards tipped white. Another was 'Jester's Robe' (Ernst 2011, TB) - standards are red-purple, falls have a blended red-purple border with a purple centre and a small violet streak at the end of the bronze beard.

Finding our way back to the bus proved to be a problem; but, when we found the bus captain, we walked with him in the belief the bus would not depart without him. Eventually, we recognized our path and found we just had time to look around the Information Centre and shop before departing on our trip back to Portland.

'Dylan' (Larry Johnson 2009, TB)
-photo by Chuck Chapman

2015 PORTLAND CONVENTION

BY RILEY PROBST, CALIFORNIA

This was the sixth AIS Convention hosted in Portland, Oregon. Previous conventions were held in 1949, 1960, 1972, 1994 and 2006. I have been attending AIS Conventions since 1985, so this was my third one in Portland. Therefore, I knew pretty much what to expect this time. John Ludi was Convention Chairman as he had been at the previous two conventions. As a matter of fact, five of the six guest iris tour gardens had been tour gardens on one or more of the previous Portland Conventions. Miller's Manor Gardens of Roger and Lynda Miller, was the only newcomer on the regular tours. Of course, I had visited it when it was in Indiana and last year in Oregon along with some of the other gardens. So, I really did know pretty much what to expect. I was not disappointed. John and his small committee did an excellent job again this year and most important there were lots of irises in bloom. Having been Convention Chairman in 2005 in St. Louis, I am aware of all of the advance planning that is necessary. But the most important things are out of the chairman's control; they are good weather and good iris bloom. Mother Nature cooperated with Portland this year.

The Carvers Acted as Bus Captains
-photo by Betty Stephens

My having moved in the late 2000's from St. Louis, MO to the west coast (California), made it interesting to me that four of the six guest tour gardens had also moved from middle America to Oregon. In 1946, Schreiner's moved from St. Paul, MN to Salem, OR. Barbara and Terry Aitken moved from Minneapolis, MN to Vancouver, WA in 1974. Thomas Johnson moved from Alberta, Canada to Oklahoma City, OK in 1994 and then with Mid-America Garden from Oklahoma City, OK to Salem, OR in 1998. Finally in 2006/2007 Roger and Lynda Miller moved Miller's Manor from Noblesville, IN to Canby, OR.

For this article, I spoke to a lady in one of our California local societies on her impressions of her first AIS convention. She was impressed with how smoothly everything came off. She recognized the fact that much advance planning had to be done to accomplish this. She has had personal experience in large Campfire Meetings and how much planning that took. She found it almost amazing that 600 people were scheduled on twelve busses which took everyone at the proper times to all six guest gardens and three lunch stops over a three day period. If you think about it, that was 3,600 garden visits and 1,800 lunch stops. She was impressed by this. She also thought all of the meetings on Wednesday were well planned and had good informative speakers.

Next, let's discuss a few highlight irises in each garden. The first garden we visited on Thursday was Will Plotner's Wildwood Garden. First is a stunning black 'Coal Seams' (Schreiner 2013 TB) - Standards (S.) dark purple, Falls (F.) darker, Beards (B.) dark purple. Another in this garden is 'Dating A Royal' (Schreiner 2014, TB) - S. pink toned lavender, F.violet edged pink, B. orange. Also in this garden is 'Ribbons And Lace' (Cynthia Bauer 2015, TB) (Bruce Filardi's next door neighbor) heavily laced pale violet self.

'Ribbons And Lace' (CynthiaBauer 2015, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

The next garden visited on day one was Roger and Lynda's Miller's Manor Garden near Canby, OR. Outstanding there was 'Football Hero' (Lynda Miller 2015, TB). It has creamy yellow standards and plum-purple falls edged orchid with gold beards. It went on to win the President's Cup. Miniature tall bearded (MTB) looked wonderful in this garden, maybe overgrown, if there is such a thing. 'Moose Tracks' (L. Miller 2015, MTB) - S. medium gold veined plum, F. black veined white, B. gold. It went on to win the Hager Cup. 'Plum Happiness' (L. Miller 2014, MTB) - S. bright yellow, F. raspberry purple with veins, B. near white, looked very bright. There was a huge two year clump of Walther Cup winner 'Holiday In Mexico' (Riley Probst 2012, MTB) growing about the best I have ever seen it grow. It has yellow standards and falls that are veined white and red-purple with a narrow yellow edge, beards mostly white. Also, there was an unbelievable Siberian (SIB) clump of 'Swans In Flight' (Robert Hollingworth 2006) with about a dozen flowers open all in bright white. It went on to win the Cook Cup.

'Plum Happiness' (L. Miller 2014, MTB)
-photo by Betty Stephens

We started Friday with a visit to Schreiner's Garden near Salem, Oregon. Irises of note there were 'Soul Mate' (Joseph Ghio 2013, TB). It is a heavily ruffled blue, lavender, pink self. Two recent Schreiner's irises caught my eye, the first was 'Cornbread N'Honey' (Schreiner 2014, TB) standards yellow, falls rosy red centers edged in yellow, beards orange. The next was 'Skirting The Issue' (Schreiner 2014, TB) –S. pink, F. red-purple edged in pink with orange beards. Schreiner's Garden with all of its companion plants is an absolutely beautiful garden.

The other garden we visited near Salem was Thomas Johnson's Mid-America Garden. An iris that caught my eye there was 'Voulez-vous' (Thomas Johnson 2015, TB). It has six flat falls of lavender with a darker maroon wash and texture veins.

'Voulez-vous' (T. Johnson 2015, TB-Novelty)
-photo by Jim Morris

Buffy peach styles create amazing contrast in their centers. I'm sure this will be a winner in the new Novelty Iris section. I also liked 'Fine Romance' (T. Johnson 2013, TB), a lacy blue-pink self with great form. Another bright one from Thomas is 'Stole The Show' T. Johnson 2013, TB) - S. bright mid yellow, F. dark mahogany with white sunburst that bleeds into yellow, B. yellow. 'I'm All Shook Up' (Paul Black 2013, TB) - S. goldish with plum infusion, F. three colors of plum with tan/gold band, B. yellow/white. There was so much in bloom here, it is hard to pick only a few.

Saturday started with a visit to Chad Harris and Dale Grams Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm near Washougal, Washington. This garden has a beautiful setting gently sloping towards the Columbia River. Chad is famous for his Japanese and beardless irises but today we were here to see bearded. One of today's stars was a beautiful dark purple luminata by Marky Smith named 'Belle Fille' (2015). Another was 'Arrivederci', (Keith Keppel 2014) - S. pale peach, F. cool lavender blend, B. orangish. I liked 'Asteroid Shower' (Jim Hedgecock 2012, TB) - S. near white, style arms bright yellow, F. white, bright yellow

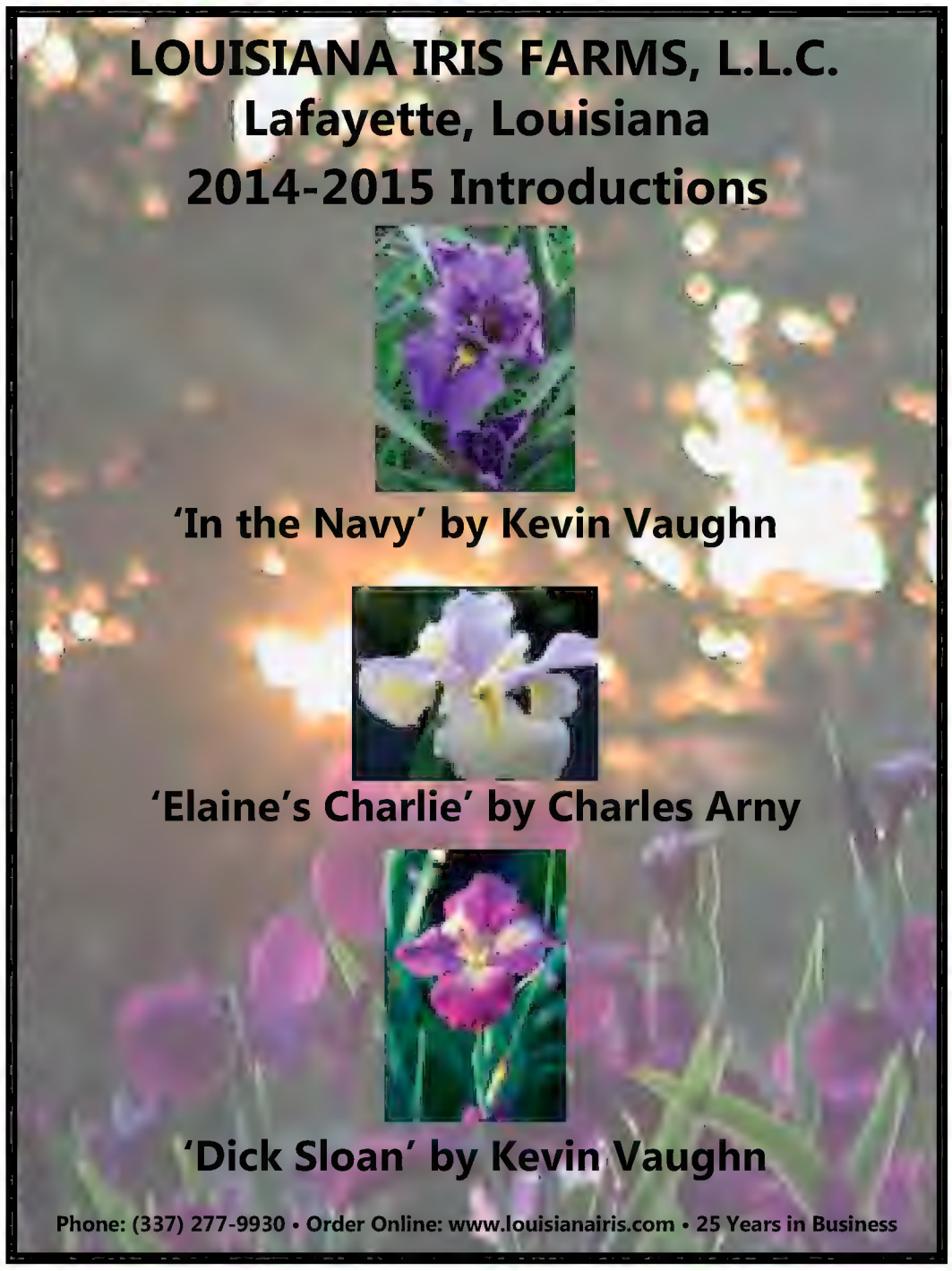
'Asteroid Shower' (Jim Hedgecock 2012, TB)
-photo by Ginny Spoon

shoulders and rims, purple rays radiate from orange beard. Catching my eye was a 'Beacon Of Light' (T. Johnson 2013, TB) - S. white, F. white ground, deep yellow across hafts, large violet wash below yellow-orange beard rimmed in white. I could go on and on; but, I won't.

Our last garden was Barbara and Terry Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens. This garden which used to be out in the country is now surrounded by houses. One I spotted here that I have loved since I first saw it as a seedling several years ago at Mid-America is 'Baby I Love You' (Black 2012, TB) - S. icy white, F. are extremely wide chartreuse with veins and white rim, B. orange. I also like 'Double Platinum' (Ghio 2012, TB) - S. shell pink, F. pearl pink, B. tangerine, registered as a rebloomer. Also, looking familiar because just five weeks ago it had won the Clara B. Rees Award at the Region 14 Spring Convention was 'Teasing Tiger' (John Painter 2012, TB) - S. orange, F. orange with dark maroon-purple lines, B. coral orange, also registered as a rebloomer. In its home garden was 'Soft Sensation' (Aitken 2014, TB) - S. warm tan, F. open pale blue and matures to white with tan rim, B. yellow to blue. And finally a beardless iris I must mention 'Rubicon' (Carla Lankow, name reserved not registered). It is a red self SPEC-X Cal-Sib. It was second runner-up in the Mahan-Zurbrigg seedling competition.

'Rubicon' (Carla Lankow SPEC-X)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

I would love to list more but I am out of time, space, and my one finger I type with is getting tired. See you next year in New Jersey.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AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK GARDEN

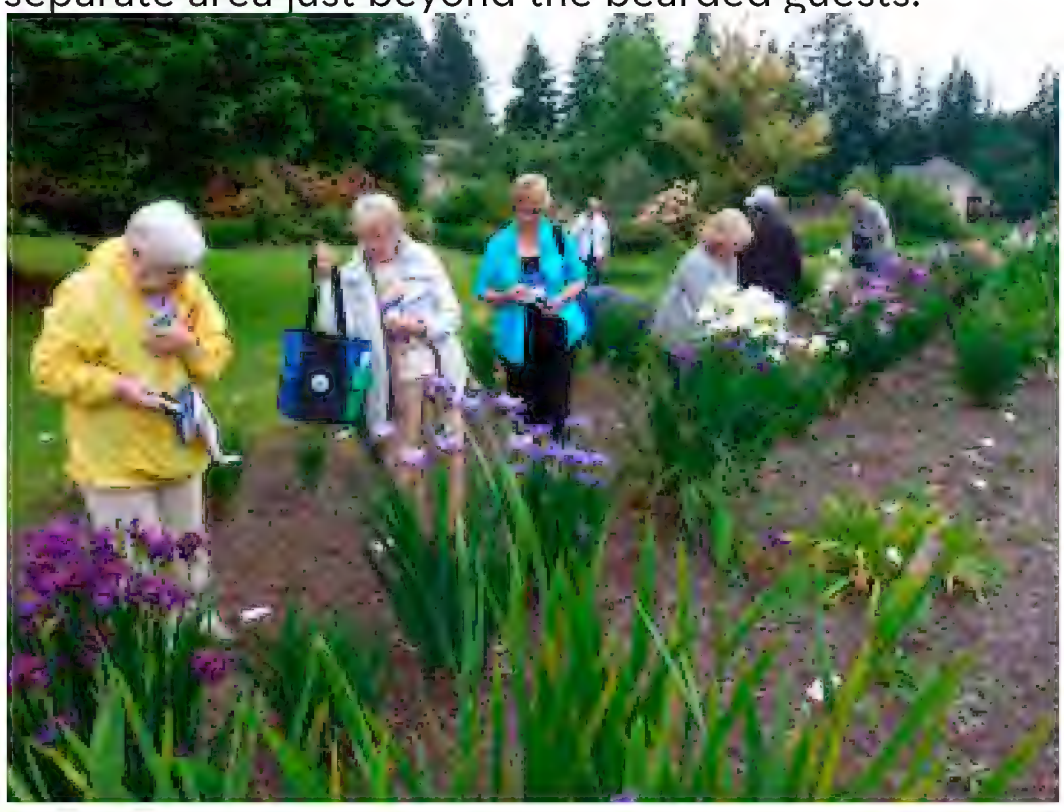
BY CAROLE BUCHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Nestled in a quiet residential neighborhood about six miles north of downtown Vancouver, WA is a five-acre corner of heaven called Aiken's Salmon Creek Garden. In the late 1960's, Terry and Barbara Aitken, of Minneapolis, began feeling the call to find a more hospitable climate for indulging in their love of gardening. At that time, colorful and enticing Schriener's catalogs had already whetted their appetite for annual additions to their ever-increasing plant collection.

The Aitken's have previously hosted guest gardens at two other AIS Conventions in the Pacific northwest, in 1994 and 2006. The weather for garden viewing this year was just about perfect with cloudy skies for pleasant temperatures and great photography. It is unfortunate, however, that just three days of convention garden visitation only gives one a snapshot of proposed peak TB bloom and does not cover the full spectrum of iris bloom.

For this 2015 convention, about 1,000 varieties of guest irises were submitted and the Aitken's garden is one of three master plantings. The guest beds were planted near the property entrance for accessibility and what a grand entrance they provided! The bearded guest iris beds were designed for ease of viewing with iris varieties planted two deep in an alternating pattern backed by the same planting design on the opposite side of each bed.

The beardless guest irises were planted in a separate area just beyond the bearded guests.



Aitkin's Guest Iris Beds
-photo by Carole Buchheim

Ample space for these was provided for 360 degree viewing. All guest iris beds received compost the first year and a token of granular fertilizer thereafter.

With so many outstanding irises to select from, it is very difficult to elaborate on just a few. About 670 irises were submitted in the tall bearded class. 'Fine Romance' (Thomas Johnson 2013, TB), a cool pink kissed lavender, wears an abundance of crinkled lace on undulating ruffles. Not to be outdone, 'Strawberry Shake' (Keith Keppel 2012, TB) is a delicious dessert of the same character; but, in creamier pink tones.

'Strawberry Shake' (Keith Keppel 2012, TB)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

'Bluebird Of Happiness' (Paul Black 2012, TB) sings its song as a bitone blue dark top with darker texture veining in both standards and falls accented with hot orange beards. 'Phantom Ship' (Lowell Baumunk 2007, TB) is a tall handsome sailor with light blue standards over purple falls with pale blue undertones and rim. 'Black Is Black' (Schreiner 2010, TB) adds midnight drama to the occasion as a nearly pure black self with hints of purple in the standards. 'Belle Fille' (Marky Smith 2015, TB) is a lady of distinction dressed in a dazzling luminata gown. Some like it hot and 'Great Balls Of Fire' (J.T. Aitken 2011, TB) is a flaming caldera in vibrant orange, yellow and a touch of white below fiery beards. Its clump affect might set your garden on fire! In more earthen tones is 'Cinque Terre' (Schreiner 2011, TB), a unique bitone blend of dark honey and violet. 'Gypsy Lady' (T. Johnson 2012, TB) can't help but be noticed clad in a kaleidoscope of color with yellow standards over light to dark lavender falls rimmed in old gold.

Red-purple shoulders complete the attire. Who can say 'Why Cows Gossip' (Douglas Kanarowski 2015, TB); but, apparently they do. This tall tale with great branching and ample buds is a story to remember. Its standards are dark violet mauve with hints of brown over falls of violet with rims and hafts to match the standards. Burnt orange beards punctuate the story. A new emerging pattern among tall bearded is of flowers with white standards and honey-toned rims that give the appearance of a halo. 'Superhero' (Joseph Ghio 2012, TB) exhibits this pattern in the standards above black maroon falls with a large golden sunburst below golden beards.

Only a handful of Arilbreds were sent as guests. 'Desert Snow' (Black 2013, AB), a pre-convention bloomer, was of median class size with standards and falls of icy white with a dark purple signal spot below yellow-tipped white beards. It's an easy grower with one branch and three-four buds.

Just over 80 Border Bearded (BB) and Intermediate Bearded (IB) (about 40 of each) were submitted as convention guests. In the Aitken garden, 'Bouyant Spirit' (Aitken 2014, BB) was a breath of fresh air. It had light blue standards over creamy white ruffled falls and orange beards changing to white at the tip. I noticed a light band of gold on the underside edges of the falls. 'Grace And Charm'

'Bouyant Spirit' (Aitken 2014, BB)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

(Black 2013, BB) was poised and tastefully dressed in mid pink with a flush of violet in the standards and peachy pink in the falls. 'Art Festival' (Aitken 2012, BB) lent a party atmosphere to the event. Rusty orange standards flushed violet crowned bright orange falls with darker radiating veins and edged in darker tones. Perhaps most of the IBs were finished during our short garden visitation days but I am told that 'Little Blue Girl' (Larry Lauer 2013, IB) put on a performance to be remembered. She has aster-violet standards and falls with a white central area and outward radiating lines. In the Standard Dwarf and Miniature Dwarf Bearded realms, only guest garden owners and pre-convention visitors enjoyed their early spring presence. Terry Aitken commented that they both exhibited very poor growth in the northwest this year due to a total lack of "winter". These plants trace their ancestry back to northern Europe and perform best after a cold winter. He commented that in spite of this, three SDB cultivars put on a notable performance: 'Exotic Eyes' (Don Spoon 2011), describes a damsel dressed in blended ruby red with a cream spray pattern at the beards and pink rim on the falls, 'Lovable Pink' (Black 2013), a sweetheart swaddled in mid pink and blended orchid with big, coral-pink beards and 'Voldy's Mink' (Anita Moran 2012), a stylish lady with standards of lavender veined blue over lavender falls with a large brick red spot.

Warm winter or not, it didn't affect the population of 60 or more Miniature Tall Bearded irises. What they lack in size they make up for in pizzazz. Take on 'Little White Tiger' (Jean Witt 2013) and you're in for a scrap. This little kitty is wearing pure white with falls

'Little White Tiger' (Jean Witt 2013, MTB)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

heavily veined in violet. I hear that Jean Witt, now in her '90s, is the "go-to" lady in the northwest for MTB know how. Not to be outdone, 'Moose Tracks' (Lynda Miller 2015) left its prints all over the popularity polls at this convention. Its medium gold standards are veined in smoky plum over white ground falls with near black veins. 'Hoosier Belle' (Charles Bunnell 2012, MTB) is a striking little lady with standards in light lavender over dark violet falls with prominent white haft marking extending midway down and rimmed in white. Charles Bunnell, winner of the Dykes Medal in 2014 with 'Dividing Line', entered thirteen MTBs including eight seedlings. Maybe he's going for the gold a second time around!

The Beardless irises put on their own grand

show for the 2015 AIS Convention as well as the 2015 Siberian (SIB)/Species(SPEC) Convention that followed. About 130 cultivars were entered in 12 classes. Blood red 'Rubicon' Cal-Sib (Carla Lankow, reserved name, not registered) was a magnet. It had lighter standards and darker signals on the falls with darker veining throughout. I understand that it comes from a species that grows in mountainous regions of China. 'Concord Crush' SIB (Bob Bauer & John Coble 2009) was actually a multilayered flower with blue-violet standards over dark blue-violet falls with white signals veined dark blue. 'Judy, Judy, Judy' SIB (Robert Hollingworth 2010) named for Bob's wife, is a striking beauty with medium red-violet standards over white falls with medium red-violet dots merging into a plicata band accented by a white wire rim edging. 'Paprikash' (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks 2012, SIB) is one hot number with pale ground standards veined and dappled in red-violet. It's falls have an apricot ground and bright yellow signals both heavily

'Paprikash' (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks 2012, SIB)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

speckled and veined red. 'Carnivalito' (Schafer & Sacks 2015, SIB) is a beauty with style arms in pink and white, violet standards veined darker and falls of yellow heavily veined in dark violet. 'Swans In Flight' (Hollingworth 2006, SIB) were a stand-out in the garden like a crown of heavenly white atop strong sturdy stems. The Louisianas and Spurias were just beginning their bloom season.

If you made it past the guest irises there was certainly a lot more to see. The Aitken's fields were laid out in a patchwork of beds with the main TB display garden in two-year clumps and TB plants for sale farther out back. Medians had their area and seedlings another. For the beardless irises two-year clumps of Siberians and Spurias each had their display beds. The Louisianas were transplanted last fall and though short, appeared to be very happy. Bruce Filardi's iris garden was on the western slope of the property

'Carnivalito' (Schafer & Sacks 2015, SIB)
-photo by Carole Buchheim

With such diversity of irises, the Aitken's bloom season extends for several months. As spring turns into summer and summer into fall, reblooming irises will share their beauty like grace notes in a song. Our thanks go to Terry and Barbara for their gracious hospitality and for providing a wonderful garden experience.

Terry & Barbara Aitken
-photo by Carole Buchheim

Aitken's Guest Iris Bed
-photo by Carole Buchheim

MT. PLEASANT IRIS FARM

BY ANITA MORAN, MARYLAND

In the midst of the Columbia River Gorge on the Washington State side is the steep sloped Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm and home of Chad Harris and Dale Grams. Looking down from the midpoint was like looking onto a river of irises, although the most important, that was not all Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm had to offer. The back deck, which had a spectacular view, contained a small koi pond and several bonsai trees. Next to that was a large pot of *Iris evansia* 'Nobody's Child' (Isobel Simpson 1994, Species (SPEC)).

Koi Pond at Mt. Pleasant Farm
-photo by Anita Moran

Going behind the deck is a staircase where *Iris pallida variegata* topped the stairs. Continuing up the stairs leads you to a grassy area which allows you a spectacular view of the Columbia River Gorge, "Vista House", and "Rooster Rock State Park" . When we could drag ourselves away from the view, further down the path was another natural pond with *Iris pseudacorus variegata* blooming happily in front of the pond hiding it from passerbys while *Iris pseudacorus* was in full bloom next to the pond.

There were just too many outstanding irises to name them all here and the list of those that took my breath away was nearly as long. One iris that was a standout to me in every garden was tall bearded (TB) 'Bright Sunshiny Day' (Thomas Johnson 2010). This bright yellow iris with red veining was spectacular in every garden. 'Dancing Days' (Keith Keppel 2013, TB) and 'Friendly Advice' (Keppel 2012, TB) were two totally different irises that just drew you in. The Kent Pfeiffer Seedling 11T-03A, a royal violet over nearly black violet falls, stood out for holding its form and color despite the rain storm the night before. The miniature tall bearded irises put on a wonderful show with 'Sari's Dance' (Ginny Spoon 2008) and 'Moose Tracks' (Lynda Miller 2015) having huge clumps filled with flowers and more stalks emerging with promises of a long bloom season. Lucy Burton's seedling 'L03-MY-rust' put on a great show with its multicolored falls and red veins. Another median that took my heart was 'Witty' (2012), an intermediate bearded (IB) from Paul Black, with its rich yellow ground and light chocolate plicata markings.

It was nice to see a wide variety of beardless irises as well as the bearded. The Siberian 'How Audacious' (Robert Hollingworth 2009) was spectacular in every garden with its multihued coloring; but, my heart

'L03-MY-rust'
-photo by Ginny Spoon

was stolen by Rita Butler's SPEC-X seedling 'More Raspberries Please' which produced a huge clump of raspberry colored flowers. I have never seen my own 'Forest Haimati' (means Forest Water Queen) (Anita Moran 2010, SPEC) bloom so well as it did at Mt. Pleasant. 'Do The Math' (Jill Copeland 2008, SPEC-X) was a monster taking most of the end of a row as it bloomed with dark rich violet blooms contrasted white style arms and yellow signal that darted white into the dark fall. Chad's *iris laevigatas* were wonderful starting with 'Lakeside Ghost' (2012, SPEC) but the two seedlings 07LAK2 a dark royal purple, and 07LAK9 a bright blue drew you to them as you walked the rows. The *Iris setosa* 'All Stripes' (Marty Schafer/ Jan Sacks 2014, SPEC) with its large flowers with a white ground and red veining and red peppering just demanded attention.

All in all, Mt. Pleasant was a wonderful stop that provided areas for quiet reflection compared to the mad buzz often accompanying National Conventions.

MILLER'S MANOR GARDEN

BY STEPHANIE MARKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Lynda and Roger Miller have a fabulous chunk of level land that includes rows and rows of irises, a huge collection of unique and unusual conifers, and extensive landscaping around the house, which showcases both flowers (irises and many other things) and conifers. I was actually able to get to the Millers' twice – once before the convention tours, mostly to explore the seedling beds (my idea of excellent fun), and later on the tour bus, to spend more time with the convention plants. It's a good thing that I did come early as well as later – I love miniature tall bearded (MTB), but for the most part, by the time the tour busses got to the convention gardens, a large portion of the MTBs, many of which bloom just a little earlier than most of the border bearded (BB) and tall bearded (TB), were on their last blooms.

Seedling Bed
-photo by Stephanie Markham

Actually, on both trips to Miller's, the seedling beds were a big draw, not only for me, but also for the rest of the convention goers. Lynda breeds a number of classes of irises, from miniature dwarf bearded (MDB) on up to the tallest of talls. Showing off for the convention were a wide range of MTBs, including both diploids in a range of patterns – including some very interestingly dotted, stitched and intensely colored plicatas as well as some uniquely colored variegatas – and tetraploids, many of which were in pinky-reddish shades (some with bright red beards!) that we can't get in the dips. Lynda is working very diligently to breed the MTBs that actually look like MTBs – with smaller flowers and nice wiry stems – which is something we MTB enthusiasts are most grateful for! Among the diploids, her new MTB 'Moose Tracks' (2015) is a petite little powerhouse in shades of gold and cream with caramel and maroon-black veining that looks rather like the sweet treat for which it was named. It was blooming its head off in most of the convention gardens, which is undoubtedly why it won the Hager Cup for the best median iris at the convention as well as being first runner-up (tie) for the President's Cup.

The other draws in the Miller seedling patch were some very striking TB seedlings. One that caught my eye was a very fancy plicata with smoky pink standards and pink falls edged in dark purple, with bright red beards – yummy! We have only a small selection of the fancier plics and lumi plics that will put up with our New England climate, so I hope this, or something like it, makes it out here for testing at some point. Another seedling that caught my eye was a clear orange confection with red horns! Now, I'm not necessarily into novelty irises, but a tasteful horn can be a nice accent on an already good looking iris flower.

Lynda Miller Seedling With Horns
-photo by Stephanie Markham

The convention beds were in several places. A long bed of convention plants ran next to the seedling/growing beds beside the driveway, and it was an impressive sight. So many of these were showing off that it was difficult to pick favorites. One of Schreiner's newer blue and white confections, 'Alsea Falls' (2012, TB), with bright white standards and dark blue-violet falls with a big white starburst around the beards, had a beautiful stalk in the clump with three fresh flowers open that I wished I could bring to a show. Another Schreiner TB that I had been noticing in many of the convention gardens was 'Cornbread N'Honey' (2014, TB), which is a warm yellow with what amounts to a large, reddish-brown "signal" or

spot around the orange beards. It looks as tasty as the name sounds, actually. Another Schreiner iris that caught my eye was a lovely milk chocolate amoena TB 'Urban Cowgirl' (2013, TB). The standards are white with a hint of yellow at the base, and the falls are a smooth milk chocolate color with paler edges and brown beards. The flower is perfectly shaped,

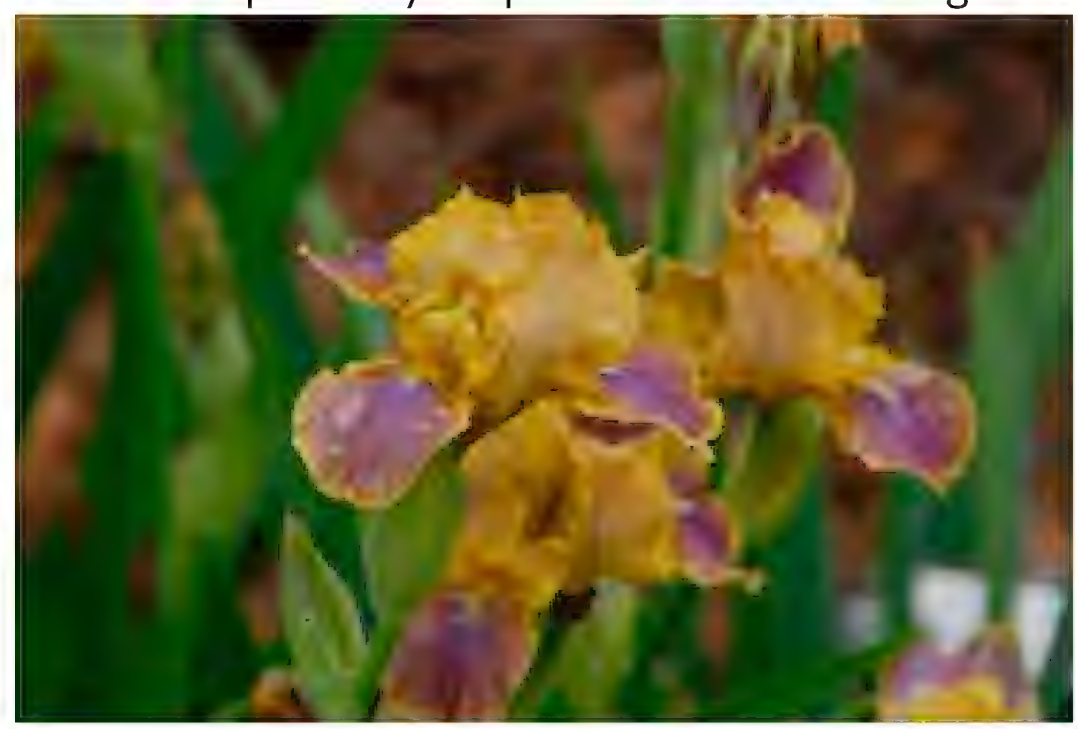
'Urban Cowgirl' (Schreiner 2013, TB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

with just the right amount of ruffling for my taste. Lynda Miller's big, strong, yellow-over-plum variegata TB 'Football Hero' (2015) was showing off here as well as in other gardens, which undoubtedly explains why it won the President's Cup. After seeing it here and elsewhere, it went straight onto my list of "must haves". Another TB that went onto my "must have" list early in the convention was Thomas Johnson's smoky brown blend 'Land Down Under' (2013, TB), which is so difficult to describe that I'm hoping at least one of my pictures will work. It's basically a warm tannish-gold with a maroon wash up the standards that makes them look sort of metallic and a bright violet flash under the bronzy-orange beards. In any case, it's very striking, if you like that sort of color combination. It's also clearly a good grower, as there were good clumps in all of the convention

'Land Down Under' (Thomas Johnson 2013, TB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

gardens, including Miller's.

The rest of the convention guests were in beds surrounding the house. So there was really no way to see all of the convention guests without also walking through the beautiful landscaping that surrounds the Miller's house. But first, let's talk about the irises. Marky Smith's TB 'Afterlife' (2012), which I grow, is a truly striking, flared, round and ruffled near-amoena with ice-white standards that have a bit of lilac running up the midribs, bright violet falls with slightly lighter texture veins and lighter edges, and screaming red beards. You can't miss it, especially in a big, healthy clump. Bob Hollingworth's award-winning tall white siberian 'Swans in Flight' (2006, Morgan-Wood Medal in 2013) was beautiful here as elsewhere, which is undoubtedly why it won the Franklin-Cook Cup for best out-of-region variety at the convention. One of my new favorite MTBs, and on my list of "must get" irises, was 'Sari's Dance' (Ginny Spoon, 2008), which was in a truly enormous clump at Miller's. This diploid has standards of soft caramel-gold and falls of the prettiest shade of orchid-violet with crisply ruffled edges in the same shade of gold as the standards, set off by orangey-gold beards. The flowers are perfectly shaped and the ruffled edges



'Sari's Dance' (Ginny Spoon, 2008, MTB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

give it just the right amount of "flirt". We could use more of this "flirty" look in our MTBs.

For something tall, very ruffled and impressively branched, I was drawn to Joe Ghio's pale blue, 'Civility' (2013, TB). For something soft and dreamy, I was thinking of taking Keith Keppel's 'Friendly Advice' (2012, TB), which is a heavily ruffled soft pinky-peachy-buff confection. Terry Aitken's 'Flaming Lava' (2013, TB), which is orange with violet erupting up the standards and flaming orange beards, stood out from the crowd, even though it is not as large a flower as some of the other TBs. My mother's tall bronzy gold TB 'Polished Bronze' (Lynn Markham, 2008) was blooming its head off during both of my trips to the Miller's gardens.

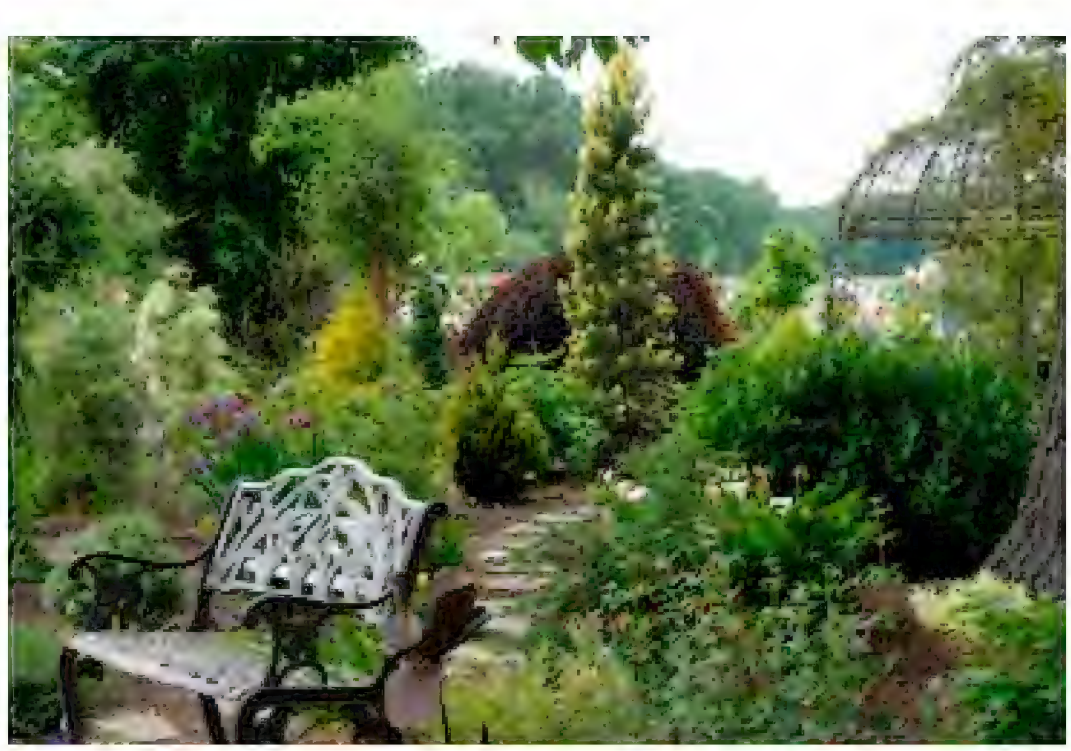
'Friendly Advice' (Keith Keppel 2012, TB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

Of the MTBs still in bloom at Millers', one of Chuck Bunnell's seedlings caught my eye (W68B-2), a warm tan and brown plicata with great shape. Terry' Varner's beautiful bright yellow 'Sun Charm' (2013, MTB) is, I think, the best yellow self out there, at least among the diploids. A clump of this iris will add a bright spot to any garden. Another bright spot was Lynda's 2014 MTB introduction, 'Plum Happiness'. This is a variegata, with bright yellow standards, and bright maroon-purple falls with thin, bright yellow edges and yellow beards. For a completely different take on variegata, I like Riley Probst's 'Holiday in Mexico' (2012, MTB). The falls are, perhaps, a bit narrower than current preference might dictate; but, the shape is perky, the standards are a nice clear bright yellow and the way the bright red-purple veins are painted on the falls, leaving a precise bright yellow edge, is really attractive. Jean Witt's most recent MTB introduction, a jauntily striped amoena called 'Little White Tiger' (2013, MTB), was blooming in a huge clump. More along the lines of interesting than strictly beautiful was a new seedling from Jean Witt, 10-13-2N, (MTB) which had butter yellow standards and white falls with yellow edges and a sanding of maroon plicata dots just in the center of the falls. We have sanded plicatas in the diploids, but I don't know of any others where the plicata dots are only in the center of the falls, so this is a really interesting break in MTB breeding. As an aside, the Median Iris Society awarded Jean Witt the Bennett C. Jones Award for Outstanding Median Hybridizing this year – not only was she one of the original participants in the MTB round robin started by Alice White (the "White" of the top MTB award, the Williamson-White Medal) in the 1950s, and one of the people responsible for the creation of the MTB class and the popularization of MTBs as garden plants, but she is still breaking new ground with them into her ninth decade!

Jean Witt, 10-13-2N, (MTB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

OK, enough about irises, now about that landscaping... I know the Millers moved to Oregon from Indiana several years ago, but they haven't been on the property for very long, only seven or eight years. Everywhere you turn, there's a striking planting, usually involving one or more unique conifers along with the irises, peonies, roses, hostas, azaleas and other plants. In one area, one of the conifers had been trained into the shape of a shaggy horse (or maybe a dog, I couldn't quite tell which). In another, there was a "secret garden" area, with a bench, a stone path, a trellis and all manner of conifers and perennials, including a metal iris sculpture. If I lived closer by, I would have been busily purchasing conifers to take home with me – but alas, I didn't think I'd have much luck taking the ones I really liked on the plane home to Massachusetts. Oh, if only we could just "beam" things over the 3,000 or so miles from there to here...of course, if we had that technology, what I'd be beaming into my gardens would be some of that lovely "black gold" soil the Millers have!

'Flaming Lava' (Terry Aitken 2013, TB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham



Miller's Secret Garden
-photo by Stephanie Markham

WILDWOOD GARDENS

BY ANITA MORAN, MARYLAND & JUDY KEISLING, MISSOURI

Half way between Portland and Salem, Oregon, in the hills along the Molalla River is Will Plotner's Wildwood Gardens. We knew we had arrived when we saw Will, garbed in "safety" attire holding a big STOP sign. It had rained hard the night before, not great for an early morning visit but exactly what you want to see when deciding which are the strongest irises.

"Will Plotner, Traffic Cop"
-photo by Jim Morris

The two main beds, each containing from three to five rows of iris, were planted horizontal to the road and were divided by a wide grassy strip that made it easy to walk from one end to the other without wading in mud. There were several iris that took the rain and remained standing, and kept their form as well. One of these was 'Subtle Beauty' (Richard Tasco 2011, TB) with straight upright stalks despite the obvious pounding the garden endured. Douglas Kanarowski's 'Tijuana Taxi' (2014, TB) showed strong with three flowers open and remained upright as if it had only been a light drizzle, as did his 'Sings With Frogs' (2013, TB) . Of course, with that name, it should be expected.

Schreiner iris doing well included 'Mr. Moonlight' (2012, TB) a shapely white self; Care To Dance' (2013, TB) a reddish amoena that maintained its color saturation; 'Coal Seams' (2013, TB) a well-branched dark purple; and, 'Blueberry Parfait' (2009, TB) with blueberry violet marbled on the falls of large, mostly white, flowers. 'Reckless Abandon' (Keith Keppel 2010, TB) was doing well with its yellow standards and narrow dandelion-colored edging, and burgundy-black falls with a large creamy center. The heavily ruffled and well-branched 'Judy's Smile' (Robert Skaggs 2014, TB), a pink and maroon bicolor with tangerine beards had four blooms open and three buds waiting their turn.

'Care To Dance' (Schreiner 2013, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

Not many folks got to the "back forty" but those that did saw 'Chocobeards' (Lynn Markham 2012) a bearded SPEC-X iris. It presented in blue-tinted ivory with green-blue texture veining on the standards and falls, and ivory style arms with pale gold crests. Many thanks to Will and his team of helpers for their hospitality on a rainy morning.

'Chocobeards' (Lynn Markham 2012)
-photo by Betty Stephens

SCHREINER'S GARDENS

BY RILEY PROBST, CALIFORNIA

Having attended the previous Portland AIS Conventions in 1994 and 2006, plus additional trips to Schreiner's in other years I thought I knew what to expect. However, I never fail to be shocked with how beautiful Schreiner's Display Garden is. I have told people, in programs I have given, that I think Schreiner's in May is the most beautiful garden in North America. (Maybe I am slightly prejudiced because of the iris, but I don't think so). This year was no exception.

An Explosion of Color at Schreiner's
-photo by Betty Stephens

Now to the tall bearded (TB) guest irises that were blooming nicely the day of our tour. One I had not seen before is 'Lezghinka' (J. Griffin Crump 2013, TB). It is off white over wine-red with bright orange beards. 'Evening Sunset' (Rick Ernst introduced by Will Plotner 2014, TB) causes me to miss my late buddy, Rick. Another buddy, Bruce Filardi has a very nice iris in 'Queen For A Day' (R. 2012, TB). It has lacy pink standards, lilac falls, and orange beards. Joe Ghio has a winner in 'Soul Mate' (2013, TB) which was doing well in several gardens; it is a heavily ruffled blue, lavender, pink self. It was my vote for the Cook Cup. Thomas Johnson had three irises in bloom that I will comment on. The first is 'Edge Of Heaven' (2013, TB). It is showy with its white standards edged gold, red-purple falls, with a white center spot, and yellow-orange beards. The second is 'Flamingo Frenzy' (2012, TB) which is a ruffled pink self including the beards. The third is 'Full Disclosure' (2013, TB) which is a six fall dark lilac self flattie. With the new Novelty Section, these type of irises are apt to gain in popularity. Speaking of novelties, Brad Kasparek's 'Zebra Perp' (2012, TB) was blooming a deep violet-purple self. What is great about this iris is the beautiful variegated green and white foliage. One other novelty guest was in bloom, my own 'Power Lines' (Riley Probst 2013, TB). It had creamy yellow standards, blue-lavender falls with huge lavender flounces.

Keith Keppel's 'Dancing Days' (2013, TB) looked good with its off white standards, violet falls and yellow beards. One of the stars in this garden as well as several other gardens was Lynda Miller's 'Football Hero' (2015, TB). It has creamy yellow standards and plum-purple falls edged orchid with gold beards. It went on to win the President's Cup. Also, looking quite nice this day was Lesley Painter's 2011 TB intro 'Loving You' with pink standards, orchid falls and white beards. My wife's

'Lezghinka' (J. Griffin Crump 2013, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Full Disclosure' (Thomas Johnson 2013, TB-Novelty)
-photo by Jim Morris

intro 'Opposites' (Shirley Trio 2012, TB) looked nice here. It has white standards, dark blue-purple falls with a white blaze and gold beards. A 2015 TB intro that looked good here was 'Wildcat Madness' by John Van Hook from Kentucky. It has white standards with white falls brushed with a violet-blue band and white beards.

To no one's surprise, many of the Schreiner's guests were doing well in their home garden. Alphabetically, a few of note will be discussed. First is 'Berry Fulfilling' (Schreiner 2013, TB) - a ruffled purple self. Another I have liked since I first saw it is 'Care To Dance' (Schreiner 2013, TB) - standards white, falls raspberry with lavender edge and tan spot in center, beards deep orange. The next is 'Cowboy Caviar' (Schreiner 2013, TB) - standards pale red-brown, falls deep red-purple with a half inch lighter edge and yellow beards. A very distinctive one is 'Cornbread N'Honey' (Schreiner 2014, TB), standards yellow, falls rosy red with centers edged in yellow, beards orange. A slightly older one is 'Fiddlin' Around' (Schreiner 2012, TB) - standards and falls dark violet-blue with white salting around white beard. Another one that looked good in several gardens is 'Linda Nelson' (Schreiner 2014, TB) - standards white, falls light violet and orange beards. Next is 'Skirting The Issue' (Schreiner 2014, TB) - standards pink, falls red-purple edged in pink with orange beards. The last Schreiner of note is 'Slew O' Gold' (2013, TB) - is a yellow self with a small amount of white veining on hafts, beards orange. One could hardly miss this one as Schreiner's had a fifteen foot circle planting around a tree in full bloom.

In this garden, medians were mostly finished due to the time of the season. One that was still blooming well with four well-budded stalks was my own miniature tall bearded (MTB) 'Holiday In Mexico' (Riley Probst 2012). It has yellow standards and falls that are veined white and red-purple with a narrow yellow edge, beards mostly white. It was performing nicely, as it should, since it was last year's Walther Cup winner. We came back to Schreiner's after the convention on our way home and saw even more irises, took more photos and made one last trip to the gift shop. The barbecue chicken luncheon on Memorial Day was good and quite popular. I can't wait until I can get back to Schreiner's again, hopefully, next year.

Hybridizer and Schreiner's owner Ray Schreiner speaking with two AIS youth members .-photo by Jim Morris

'Soul Mate' (Joe Ghio 2013, TB) -photo by Jim Morris

'Fiddlin' Around' (Schreiner 2012, TB) -photo by Jim Morris

MID-AMERICA GARDEN

BY ELLADAN MCLEESTER, WISCONSIN

Mid-America Garden is owned and operated by Thomas Johnson. Paul Black was also on hand in the gardens. Paul retired from the business side of the operation in 2011 and in 2013 moved into Portland. Paul produces the catalog and is still actively involved with irises and hybridizing. His iris seedlings are still grown and introductions made via Mid-America Garden.

Hybridizer Medal Winners Bryce Williamson and Thomas Johnson.
-photo by Jim Morris

Mid-America Garden is located just north of Salem, Oregon. In 1998, Mid-America Garden was moved from Oklahoma City to its current location. Thomas and his partner Kirk Hansen also own and operate Sebright Gardens in the same location. Sebright is mainly a hosta, fern, and shade plant nursery.

Thomas is an extraordinary hybridizer and gardener. It was exciting to see Thomas awarded the honorary Hybridzer's Medal at the awards banquet.

Mid-America Garden was our first stop on the tour. As they say, "Have dessert first, life is uncertain." This is a large garden with lots of beautiful plants to see. On first entering the gardens, there were the beds of guest irises and display beds. The convention beds were nicely laid out down a hillside with wide grass paths between the double rows of iris. At the bottom of the hill were more display gardens that included many Siberian iris in addition to bearded. Beyond those were the gardens and the house. The house is a pleasing shade of purple with white trim and dark green shutters. The grounds around the house are covered in immaculate and impressive beds containing a huge variety of plants. All areas were perfectly manicured and all the plants were very healthy. Among the peonies and roses, I noticed many hosta, heucheras, and honeysuckles. The lovely gazebo in these gardens would be an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon.

On the other side of the house was the impressive hosta shade house. Beside that there is a new building that serves as the office. Beyond the new building was a field of commercial plantings of named iris lined with arborvitae. Next, was a field of reselect seedlings. Past an empty field was another field of seedlings. We were warned that going so far away we may miss the bus; but I had to take my chances. The seedlings are fantastic. Besides, there may be better places to be left behind, but none come to mind. There would never be enough time to see everything.

We were told that peak bloom was the week before we were there; but there were still lots of iris blooming for our tour. The tall bearded (TB) and miniature tall bearded (MTB) were going strong, as were the Siberians. The Spurias were showing blooms among the healthy plants.

'Jellybean Parade' (Douglas Kanarowski 2014, TB)
-photo by Elladan McLeester

Several of the guest iris caught my eye. 'Jellybean Parade' (Douglas Kanarowski 2014, TB) was an entire parade of color. It has white ground, tinged palest blue-violet, substantial mid-yellow basal infusion standards and falls with a triangular white zonal patch around the beard surrounded with wide, water-colored, blended band of orchid-violet and reddish grape with rim of pale lilac. It has a standard sized flower, is moderately ruffled, and has a slight spicy fragrance.

A real eye catcher was 'Bright Sunshiny Day' (Thomas Johnson 2010, TB). It is a bright yellow and gold bitone. The falls are lined and speckled mahogany. It was a real ray of sunshine on an overcast day. One that looked good here and in many of the other convention gardens was 'After The Rain' (Paul Black 2013, TB) It is a beautifully formed white with standards blushed pale lilac. Another one drawing lots of attention here was 'Poodle Parade' (Black 2010, TB), a heavily ruffled and laced mid pink blending to warm white around coral beards. Making an impressive clump was 'Beauty Becomes Her' (Black 2010, TB). It is a vivid yellow with pale centers on the falls.

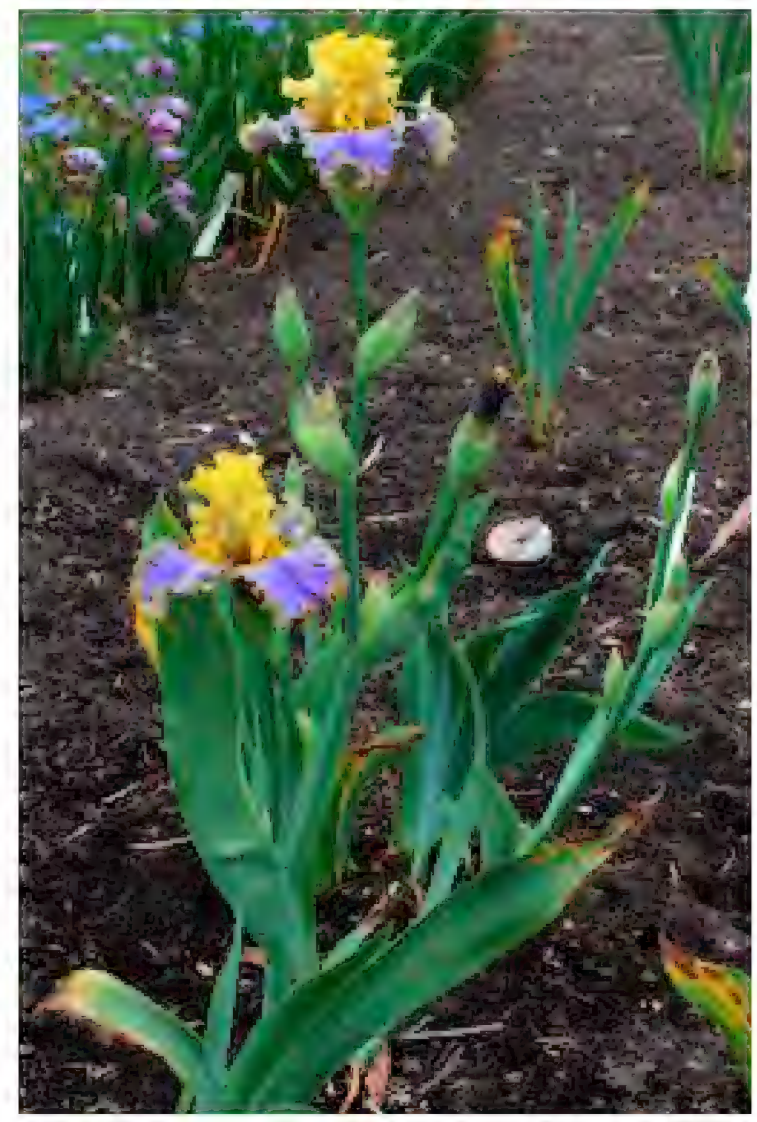
'Poodle Parade' (Black 2010, TB)
-photo by Elladan McLeester

Another that looked good in all the gardens was 'Football Hero' (Lynda Miller 2015, TB). It has rich bright yellow standards over deep plum purple falls with pale orchid edges. It was beautifully ruffled and healthy everywhere. It was fun to see 'Cow Patty' (Tom Burseen 2014, TB). A pleasing brown with bright gold beards. The stalk of 'Rock Climber' (Bruce Fliardi 2012, TB) caught my eye because it seemed so perfectly named. It is a pretty lobelia blue that looked like it could be climbed. Forming a nice clump

'Rock Climber' (Bruce Fliardi 2012, TB)
-photo by Elladan McLeester

was 'Huggable You' (Black 2013, MTB). It has white standards. The falls are sanded and dotted mid violet. The lined pattern was cheerful to see. A real impressive show was put on by 'Sari's Dance' (Ginny Spoon 2008, MTB). 'Sari's Dance' has yellow standards and medium lavender-violet falls. It really does look to be dancing in the garden. The foliage also looked clean and disease resistant. One that caught my eye both in the guest beds and in other areas of the gardens was 'Don't Stop Believing' (T. Johnson 2013, TB) It has mid pink standards, shaded edge and hafts on white falls, and remarkable violet beards.

In the display beds was an impressive clump of 'Ink Patterns' (T. Johnson 2007, TB) a lovely white with dark blue plicata bands. This makes large clumps everywhere I have seen it, but this was the largest I have seen. Also, in the display beds I noted Joe Ghio admiring a perfect stalk of Thomas Johnson's 'Barbara Rider' (2015, TB). Joe Ghio remarked that he thought it was perfect. It has vivid yellow standards and hafts with lavender-blue falls with gold bands. It is beautiful indeed.



'Barbara Rider' (Johnson 2015, TB)
-photo by Elladan McLeester

FAVORITE 15 GUEST IRISES – PORTLAND CONVENTION

BY JOHN LUDI, CHAIR, 2015 PORTLAND IRIS CONVENTIONS

The Portland Convention attendees votes for the Favorite 15 Guest Irises have been tallied. Of the 997 varieties of Bearded and Beadless Guest Irises, 533 received one or more votes. The top Favorite 15 are:

VOTES	VARIETY NAME	TYPE	YEAR	HYBRIDIZER
176	Football Hero	TB	2015	Lynda Miller
122	Swans in Flight	SIB	2006	Bob Hollingworth
118	Tijuana Taxi	TB	2014	Douglas Kanarowski
104	Moose Tracks	MTB	2015	Lynda Miller
94	Strawberry Shake	TB	2012	Keith Keppel
72	Blueberry Parfait	TB	2009	Schreiner's
71	Sari's Dance	MTB	2008	Ginny Spoon
67	Fine Romance	TB	2013	Thomas Johnson

'Moose Tracks' (Lynda Miller, 2015, MTB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Blueberry Parfait'
(Schreiner 2009, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Fine Romance' (T. Johnson 20013, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Swans in Flight' (Hollingworth, 2006, SIB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Sings with Frogs' (Kanarowski 2013, TB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

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VOTES	VARIETY NAME	TYPE	YEAR	HYBRIDIZER
60	Care To Dance	TB	2013	Schreiner's
59	Bright Sunshiny Day	TB	2010	Thomas Johnson
55	Jeanne Clay Plank	TB	2012	Frederick Kerr
55	Note To God	TB	2012	Thomas Johnson
54	Sings With Frogs	TB	2013	Douglas Kanarowski
49	Sharp Dressed Man	TB	2010	Thomas Johnson
48	Hoosier Belle	MTB	2012	Chuck Bunnell

'Bright Sunshiny Day', (Thomas Johnson, 2010 TB)
-photo by Ginny Spoon

'Jeanne Clay Plank'
(Kerr 20012, TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Note To God', (Thomas Johnson, 2012 TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Sharp Dressed Man', (Thomas Johnson, 2010 TB)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Hoosier Belle' (Chuck Bunnell 2012, MTB)
-photo by Stephanie Markham

KEITH KEPPEL GARDEN

BY MARGARET KELLY, ILLINOIS

This was an optional tour garden, some 45 miles south of the convention hotel and an hour later, through showers all the way, our bus turned onto a country road. A short time later, we noticed up on the hill to the right, irises, lots of irises! By now the showers had ceased! As we neared the garden, even more irises were seen. As we arrived at the garden, Keith boarded the bus to welcome us. He told us about his garden and his 60 years of hybridizing. We got off the bus, heading in many different directions.

We walked up the hill to the named variety section, and proceeded to note the most eye appealing irises. My favorite, a tall bearded (TB), was 'Strawberry Shake' (Keith Keppel 2012). It was ruffled, laced, and creamy strawberry pink including beards. Luscious! Others that were eye catching, included 'Fancy Ideas' (Keppel 2013, TB) with mauve standards edged lemon, red purple falls, white luminata patch, and yellow beards. For ruffling, 'Sea Power' (Keppel 1999, TB) was outstanding! We selected this iris for its incredible surge of ruffling and its cornflower blue color. It's like picking out candy in a candy shop!

Jean Morris Taking Notes in the Keppel Garden
-photo by Jim Morris

Next, we observed the newly lined out seedlings which occupied another large section, about the size of the existing section of beds. Just think of the future spectacular display.

The next section we visited was the seedlings. Again, there were outstanding forms and colors. It is hard to select just one. It seemed an almost impossible task as we found many outstanding crosses that we felt were very good. Of those seedlings, two seedlings were of interest to me. First, there was cross #06-116A (Gypsy Lord X Jazz Band) – yellow gold standards, yellow falls rimmed in brown with a white patch under a red orange beard. The other seedling that fascinated me because of its foliage was seedling #0057A x 02-106A. The flower was very attractive. We were amazed with the purple color in the stems all the way to the rhizomes. These are good examples of something unique.

We walked along the main path, lined with beds of different flowers and trees. One attraction was pink, purple, and blue lupines standing tall and stately. Next stop was the greenhouse where refreshments were being served. Also, in the greenhouse was a display of Keith's nine 2015 Iris Introductions. Each of the introduced flowers were displayed in small vases, giving us an opportunity to observe the flowers close up and personal. Next to the introductions were eleven seedlings that Keith felt were outstanding.

It was a delight to be able to enjoy Keith's garden and all the elements associated with it. Thanks to Keith and all his helpers who made this garden beautiful. We appreciate all the hard work and the opportunity to visit.

ANOTHER DAY IN THE GARDEN SIBERIAN / SPECIES CONVENTION

BY CHARLES J. SIMON, ILLINOIS

The Siberian / Species Convention immediately followed the American Iris convention and was headquartered at the same hotel as the AIS convention. On Sunday, May 24th, our garden tour started with a first garden visit at Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm (Chad Harris and Dale Grams). Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm is located in the National Scenic Columbia River Gorge. The setting for the garden is extremely picturesque. The Siberians and species were well grown and gave the attendees a wonderful start for garden visits. Details of the gardens are described in preceding articles. We enjoyed lunch at the Vancouver Military Base (now a National Historic site). Lunch was excellent and was served buffet style featuring lasagna.

After lunch, we continued our garden visits at Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens. Again the quality of the Siberians and Species was top notch. Judges training was given to approximately 70 people. A number of our non USA/Canada attendees took training. Jan Sacks, Marty Schafer, Carol Warner, and Jody Nolin provided the training. John Coble was scheduled to give training but lost his voice and Jody filled in for him.

Siberian Clump at Aitken' s
-photo by Betty Stephens

Our evening program was a panel program on Siberian Hybridizing. The panel consisted of Marty Schafer, Jan Sacks, Terry Aitken, and John Coble. Specific topics included pollination techniques and the treatment of seeds and seed germination. Comments after the program suggested that a continuation of this type of program would really be appreciated.

A SIGNA Program followed the Siberian panel. The program "Growing Species Iris in the Maritime Pacific Northwest" was given by Patrick Spence and was well received.

May 25, our garden tour continued at Wildwood Gardens (Will Plotner). Many Siberian and Species were grown in this garden and again they gave a positive picture. Our next garden, Schreiner's , had the Siberians and Species planted on the far edge of their display garden. Everything was beautiful. Lunch was served in front edge of the display garden in a large party tent. Lunch consisted of a barbecued chicken, vegetable, and soft drink. The lunch was almost more than you could eat.

Mid-America (Tom Johnson) was our last garden stop on the tour. The garden was fantastic.

Our Siberian Convention closed with a Banquet and a Plant Auction. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

The Francis Scott Key Iris Society, Maryland, will host the Siberian/Species Convention May 25 and 26 of 2018. Plan on attending this event.

ANOTHER DAY IN THE GARDEN – MY FAVORITES

BY JEAN MORRIS, MISSOURI

I do not grow Siberian irises very well. Here in St. Louis we have hot and humid summers and Siberians tend to resent this. I should water them more. Ditto on the fertilizer. They grow shorter here and increase more slowly (if at all). But I admire Siberians, am amazed at how they have improved of late, and I keep trying to give them better care.

This year in Portland, I fairly drooled at all the new varieties I saw. While we were encouraged to vote a ballot for our favorite Siberian, species/spec-x and seedling, we were not asked to list our favorite fifteen as we did for the AIS Convention. Therefore, I thought it would be fun to try to narrow down my wish list to a Favorite Fifteen, not an easy task! The following is my list.

1.) 'Swans In Flight' (Hollingworth 2006) – This tall, lovely white with lime signals and a perfect name, grew and bloomed in huge clumps everywhere. It even does well for us in St. Louis. Choosing this iris as number one was a no-brainer.

2.) 'Cape Cod Boys' (Schafer/Sacks 2009) – This blue violet over sooty violet has bright yellow signals. It looks beautiful in the garden and grows well in St. Louis with a minimum of care.

3.) 'Paprikash' (Schafer/Sacks 2012) – I was blown away with this color which is red veining on peach standards over red falls with yellow signals veined red. The styles are peach. It grew in large clumps in Oregon. I would be thrilled if it did so here.

4.) 'How Audacious' (Hollingworth 2009) – The color and ruffling on this iris were amazing. It is a rosy lilac with blue fall dotting around bright yellow signals. Also it has yellow pencil edging and grew and bloomed very well.

5.) 'Concord Crush' (Bauer/Coble 2010) – These large, pretty rosette flowers are multi-petaled in red-violet with blue-violet underneath. The bright yellow signals and rosy styles add to the exotic look.

6.) 'Peace Of Sky' (Schafer/Sacks 2014) – This is a very, very blue Siberian sporting white styles with a touch of yellow. The color combination is fresh and restful.

7.) 'Fisherman's Twilight' (Jim Copeland 2014) – I think I saw this as a seedling at the Wisconsin Convention. It is neon red-violet with turquoise ribbed styles and makes a bright spot in the garden.

8.) 'Simply Cute' (Jill Copeland 2015) – As I understand it, this has versicolor in it twice. It is raspberry with turquoise edged styles that have raspberry ribs. I hope it will grow in St. Louis as it is really good looking.

9.) 'Lime Street Blues' (Schafer/Sacks 2014) – What a nice combination of colors this is with banana standards over yellow falls, veined pewter. The styles are turquoise.

'Cape Cod Boys' (Schafer/Sacks 2009)
-photo by Jim Morris

'How Audacious' (Hollingworth 2009)
-photo by Jim Morris

10.) 'Butterscotch Fizz' (Schafer/Sacks 2013) – This was a great grower in Oregon in soft yellow-gold over butterscotch. These colors were new to me.

11.) 'Simon Says' (Hollingworth 2007) – This red-purple over purple, pencil edged white with deep mauve styles and white signals caught my attention right away. I liked its vigorous growth as well.

12.) 'Jolly Young Man' (Schafer/Sacks 2013) – I love blue and yellow together, and this was the bluest of blues with yellow signals. The styles were light blue ribbed turquoise.

13.) 'Silver Girl' (Schafer/Sacks 2012) – This clean lavender bitone had nice, round form with the petals making circles. The restful color would be good beside the more flashy ones.

14.) 'Who's On First' (Hollingworth 2008) – Being a baseball fan, I was intrigued by this name which is reminiscent of the Abbott and Costello routine that makes me laugh every time I hear it. This *I. typhifolia* hybrid was royal purple with a faint gold signal. It should bloom a bit earlier than the other Siberians, and I would like that.

15.) 'Bluebird Kisses' (Schafer/Sacks 2014) – This is another very blue Siberian with a vivid yellow signal. It grew tall, was well-budded and bloomed in huge clumps in Oregon.

We were so happy we decided to stay over for the Siberian-Species Tours. The bloom was fabulous and the people were fun and friendly. A big thank you goes to the garden owners for their extra work and skill in growing the guest plants. Thanks also to the hybridizers for creating a host of beautiful, improved irises to share with us.

'Concord Crush' (Bauer/Coble 2010)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Peace Of Sky' (Schafer/Sacks 2014)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Fisherman's Twilight' (Jim Copeland 2014)
-photo by Jim Morris

'Simply Cute' (Jill Copeland 2015)
-photo by Jim Morris

GIGANTIC THANK YOU TO EVERYONE, FROM THE AIS SILENT AUCTION

BY DEBBIE STRAUSS, TEXAS & NICK STEWART, OKLAHOMA

The **2015 AIS Silent Auction** would like to give a **GIGANTIC THANK YOU** to everyone for participating in our success with raising over $5,933 for AIS. The wonderful participation from a convention with 640 registrations is flat out outstanding! Again first our appreciation goes to Greater Portland Iris Society and the local garden clubs, all their members and workers for hosting the Iris In Wonderland 2015 AIS National Convention!

Next we would like to thank everyone who donated their wonderful treasures so others could enjoy them. We would especially like to thank all the bidders for their diligent efforts to win their chosen items.

We would like to congratulate all the Regions and HIPS who made such imaginative and exciting **Raisin' Region Baskets** full of unique and desirable goodies. Thank you to all - for sharing your special items and your time fixing the great baskets for us. They raised 17% of our total profit. The amazing ten Regions (Region 18 & 2 made two baskets) who helped us out tremendously by making these great baskets were:

- Region 2 – New York, Ontario and Quebec – **RVP Judith Tucholski-Zon** – $50.00
- Region 2 – New York, Ontario and Quebec – **RVP Judith Tucholski-Zon** – $41.00
- Region 6 – Ohio, Indiana and Michigan – **RVP James Copeland** – $30.00
- Region 8 – Minnesota and Wisconsin – **RVP Tim Moore** – $40.00
- Region 11 – Idaho, Montana and Wyoming – **RVP Jim Sadler** – $40.00
- Region 14 – Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii – **RVP John Pesek** – $35.00
- Region 17 – Texas - **RVP Dawn Boyer** – $400.00
- Region 18 – Kansas & Missouri (#1) – **RVP Debbie Hughes** – $50.00
- Region 18 – Kansas & Missouri – (#2) – Greater Kansas City Iris Society - **RVP Debbie Hughes** –$50.00
- Region 20 – Colorado – **RVP Susan Driver** – $50.00
- Region 21 – Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba – **RVP Linda Wilkie** – $25.00
- Region 23 – New Mexico – **RVP Howard Dash** – $120.00

This year we also had an incoming HIPS President, Cathy Egerer and *Roots* Editor, Nancy McDonald, who work at Pickle Barrel Historic Iris Display Garden in MI, donate a basket as well as four lovely items for the Silent Auction. Thank you very much!

Cathy Egerer, Nancy McDonald, Pickle Barrel Historic Iris Display Garden-HIPS Basket - $41.00 plus $42.00 on items donated!

The final group that we would like to thank is a very wonderful group of irisairians! They are **the** most dedicated, lovey group of people in our iris world. Please help us thank them. This group consists of the Hybridizers and their Iris Gardens. They donated almost 100 mostly 2015 iris. We received tall bearded, miniature dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, Spuria, aril-bred, aril-medians, species, standard dwarf bearded, *Iris laevigata*, *Iris ensata*, and Siberians for the AIS Silent Auction. We are very thankful and appreciative to them all. However, we would also like for **you** to help us thank them. If you won a wonderful iris in the bidding, please write the hybridizer or donating garden a note and express your and our thanks to them. Place an order to go along with your great bid winner! If you will do this for us, it will help them, help us! The hybridizers and gardens that donated iris for the AIS Silent Auction are:

- **Terry & Barbara Aitken – Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens**
- **Tom Burseen – Tom Burseen's Laboratory**
- **Chuck Chapman – Chapman Iris**
- **Joe Ghio – Bayview Gardens**
- **Mark Grumbine – Cabot Arkansas**
- **Chad Harris – Mt Pleasant Iris Farm**
- **Jim Hedgecock – Comanche Acres Iris Gardens**
- **Steve Kelley – Adobe Iris**
- **Larry Lauer – Lauer's Flowers**
- **John & Leslie Painter – Napa Country Iris Gardens**
- **Nancy Price & Dave Silverburg – Abbey Gardens**
- **Schreiner's Family - Schreiner's Iris Gardens**
- **Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer – Joe Pye Weeds Gardens**
- **Don & Ginny Spoon – Winterberry Gardens**
- **Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan – Superstition Gardens**

The last group we would like to thank are **all** the volunteers that helped Nick and me over the course of five days of organizing, setting up, manning, distributing and tearing down the AIS Silent Auction. We could not have managed without all of you. Thank you for your time, dedication, thoughtfulness and love.

Now don't forget, we will all be in **New Jersey** next year with even more amazing goodies and iris. We hope to see you all with your bids, your donations, your time and your love! Sincere thanks to all!

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AIS Spring Convention

Dykes Medal winner Chuck Bunnell, Indiana, receives award for 'Dividing Line'-photo by Ralph McTall

Paul Black awarded Knowlton/Sass/Cook-Douglas Medals by Jean Morris, MIS President. -photo by Ralph McTall

Walther Cup winner Riley Probst with AIS President Jim Morris -photo by Ralph McTall

Williamson-White Medal awarded to Carol Morgan by Jean Morris, MIS President for 'Rayos Adentro'. -photo by Ralph McTall

Faith Winzer from Kansas was the winner of 2015 Clarke Cosgrove Youth Achievement Award - photo by Ralph McTall

Portland, Oregon - May 2015

Jim Morris awards the AIS Membership Contest Affiliate Award to David Cupps, Bluegrass Iris Society - photo by Jim Wilson

Ben R. Hager Median Cup and President's Cup winner Lynda Miller, Oregon -photo by Ralph McTall

Adam Cordes wins Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup for 'Royston Rubies' -photo by Ralph McTall

Bee Warburton Medal winner Barry Blyth - photo by Ralph McTall

2016 Newark AIS Convention Invitation by George Boyce -photo by Ralph McTall

Irises Down Under, New Zealand

(Gobsmacked in Australia & New Zealand, Part 3)

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

Continuing our trip down under, Jean and I flew into Christchurch, New Zealand on the South Island in late October 2014 where we were met by our host Marilyn Rathgen with a Dutch iris in hand. An excellent welcome for irisarians! The earthquake devastation from February 2011 left downtown a shambles with most buildings largely destroyed, including their famous Anglican church. Rebuilding is progressing slowly.

We drove two hours south to Marilyn's farm home near Timaru where we met her husband Peter, who was soon off to the high country as a hunting guide. The countryside on the east has some ocean beaches, many cliffs and some sea ports. Inland are rolling hills teeming with sheep (and some red deer for meat export) progressing to high country and the Southern Alps with mountains of 3,000 feet to the 12,000 foot Mt. Cook.

Elephant Rocks, South Island
-photo by Marilyn Rathgen

Marilyn was our tour guide as we visited tourist destinations such as Elephant Rocks; the University of Canterbury observatory on Mt. John; the 450 foot deep Lake Tekapo; Mt. Horrible & Mt. Misery; Matakaea Shag Point on the East Otago coast to view seals; and Oamaru to see penquins. We visited many local gardens including the Yvonne Davison garden where we saw her two pet lambs, unlabeled median irises, PCIs, the enigmatic 'Holden Clough', trilliums, Dutch irises, rhododenrons, *I. setosa*, fritillaries, eremurus, primroses, and much more. In the MacKenzie basin and high country, we visited with Michael and Wilma Midgley near Lake Tekapo. Michael is an alpine plant specialist and member of the Species Iris Group (SIGNA). He built an awesome crevice garden of vertical narrowstone. His garden contained 'Alamosa' (Noel Lapham R. 2008, SDB), *I. flavacens, I. lutesens, I. hookeri*, a dwarf *I. setosa*, gentians, and alpine dwarf penstemmons.

We visited the South Canterbury Group iris trial garden in Makikihi. This garden was the best labeled garden of the entire trip. Since New Zealand prohibited importation of plants in 2004, emphasis has shifted to trialing imported iris seeds in the effort to stay current with world hybridizing trends. Among the pre-2004 named varieties found here were 'Elephant Footprint' (Kasperek 2002, SDB-Re); 'Hoodlum' (Keppel 1997, SDB) including Roundup damaged stalks that were actually quite unique; 'Sculptured Wild' (Blyth 1997-98, IB); and 'Western Sage' (Cleo Palmer 1992, IB).

'Sculptured Wild' (Blyth1997-98, IB) in Barrell Garden, N. Island, Cambridge, NZ -photo by Jim Morris

Other gardens visited included those of Graham Menary & Vern Campbell and nearby neighbor Gwenda Harris, all in Wiamate; Jessica Ward's Blue Cliffs Station (district) in sheep country; Median Iris Society member Allison Simpson's south of the Waitaki River; Linda Crossen's garden in South Burn, and Elaine & Robert Fisk's garden home in Waikouaiti which was closer to the South Pole than the equator and where the wind never stops blowing. Species and unnamed PCI irises were everywhere including at Marilyn Rathgen's. Species included the striking miniatures *I. verna* and *I. gracilipes* growing with the mouse plant Juno's dove. Other species irises included I. *aphylla, I. japonica, I. pallida, I. typhifolia,* and the small *I. setosa Canadensis nana* growing 11" tall.

New Zealand registered irises included 'Forest Glade' (Jean Stevens 1969-70, SDB) in yellow with brown fall spots; 'Bev's Choice (Lapham 2000-01, SDB) a purple on white plicata; 'Homa Gold' (A. Nicholl 2003-04, SDB) in yellow over golden yellow with lavender beards; arilbred median 'Bird Dancer' (Hilmary Catton 1982-83) an OGB growing 25" displaying lavender blue standards with a green midrib, F. green-gold with a blue flash below bronze beards; 'Irwell Star Struck' (Ron Busch R. 2010, TB); 'Richmond Mahagony' (David Nicholl R. 2010, TB); and 'For Gretchan' (A. Nicholl R. 2009, TB).

Left To Right: 'Richmond Mahogany' in Rathgen Garden, S. Island, Timaru, NZ; 'Bird Dancer' (Hilmary Catton 1982-83, AB-Med) in Allison Simpson's Garden, S. Island, south of the Waitaki River; 'For Gretchan' (Alison Nicholl R. 2009, TB) in Rathgen Garden, S. Island, Timaru, NZ

American irises included 'Swing And Sway' (Messick 1994, TB); 'Blackbeard' (Weiler 1989, BB); 'Wabash' (Mary Williamson 1936, TB); the laced 'Zua' (Mrs. W. Crawford 1914, IB); 'Wedding Vow' (Ghio 1972, TB); 'Ballet Lesson' (Niswonger 1993, SDB); 'Lemon Pop' (Lauer 1990, IB); 'Maui Moonlight' (Aitken 1987, IB); 'Counting Sheep' (Aitken 1999, SDB) most appropriate for sheep country; 'Prank' (Keppel 2000, SDB); 'Ming' (M. Smith 1998, IB); 'Pele' (Aitken 1993, SDB); 'Adoring Glances' (Niswonger 1992, SDB); 'Butter Cookie' (Gatty 1980, IB); 'Lady In Red' (Willott 1973, SDB); and 'Zizah' (L. Rich 1983, Arilbred median) OGB growing 15" tall.

Several gardens were growing the French historic 'Alcazar' (Vilmorin 1910, TB) and it was performing well.

North Island, New Zealand

We were hosted in Cambridge by Mary and Clive Barrell. The Cambridge 1909 city hall had a wonderful planting of light violet *I. pallida* irises. We visited many tourist spots such as the Waitomo Glowworm Caves, Huka Falls, Sulphur Bay Wildlife Refuge, and Waiotapu, the Thermal Wonderland, New Zealand's most colorful volcanic area. It is much like Yellowstone with geysers, bubbling mud caldrons and the smell of sulphur everywhere. We visited several Maori tribal sites and went to Peter and Van Berry's garden in Tauranga to see Peter's seedling beds, PCIs, kiwi fruit arbors and wild flowers. We also visited the gardens of Stephanie Boot (Louisianas) where we saw a hedgehog; the Tikitere Gardens of Mary Ford and Bill Robinson with its 230 varieties of rhododendrums, running stream, acers and hostas; and that of Willie and Bill Dijk (daffodil hybridizer) where he displayed thousands of potted plants and seedlings. *I. cristata* and *I gracilipes* were in abundance. The NZIS Convention was held at the Kingsgate Hotel in Hamilton. NZIS president Alison Nicholl welcomed the 70 attendees as did Deputy Mayor Gordon Chesterman of Hamilton, who recognized me as the American speaker. The tour started with the garden of Chris Watkinson. There were TBs, LAs, and species. We did see 'Mesmerizer' (M. Byers 1991, TB-SA), 'High Stakes' (Schreiner 1999, TB) and 'Cabbages And Kings' (A. Nichols 2006-07, TB). At the Barrell garden (which we saw for five days) PCI seedlings ruled the day and week. Medians in bloom included 'Carol Lee' (K. Fisher 1989, MTB), 'Apricot Drops' (Aitken 1995, MTB), 'Frosty Elegance' (C. Palmer 1994, IB), 'Devilish Nature' (Boswell 1998, IB) and 'Richmond Hills' (Alison Nicholl 2007-08, IB). TBs of note included 'Silverado' (Schreiner 1987), 'Devonshire Cream' (G. Sutton 2000), 'Honky Tonk Hussy' (Meek 1991), and 'Mesmerizer' (Byers 1991).

The Ian Murray Garden adjoining the Barrell garden had many unnamed Siberians and huge clumps of Spuria seedlings which Ian is crossing. Here we saw 'Emma Ripeka' (Frank Love 1995-96, Sib), a past NZ Dykes Medal winner.

Other gardens visited included that of Jan de Nicolo (Highgate) in Pirongia with large plantings of *I. pallida* and unnamed Siberians, *I. orientalis*, *I. japonica* and American TBs 'Bayberry Candle' (DeForest 1969) and 'Naples' (T. Johnson 2001). Also that of Bev Johnson in Hamilton with TBs 'Wedding Vow' (Ghio 1972) and 'Copatonic' (Blyth 1994-95). Next was the Gael and Reg Salter garden with bottle brush, clematis, and unnamed Louisiana irises. Then to the 2014 Garden of the Year, the Hamilton Gardens. This was a large public garden with Mollis azaleas, rose trial gardens, and a Maori Te Parapara Garden with pre-European Maori horticulture techniques such as hilled planting. Carved figures on the garden palisades represent ancestral Maori.

The Dora and Rob Moffitt Garden in the hills above Huntly, NZ contained a good collection of TBs including 'Green And Gifted' (Blyth 1989-90) in green gold with green veins and bronze beards, 'It's Magic' (Maryott 1995), 'Splashacata' (Tasco 1998), 'Decker' (Jameson 2001), 'Acoma' (Magee 1990), and 'Sharpshooter' (Keppel 2000). While we were there, the cattle herd came in for milking.

Margaret Liddell's large garden in Morrinsville was notable with many roses, irises, a weeping copper beech tree and a

family of chooks (chickens) strutting around. 'Bold Statement' (Tasco 2002, IB) was the best median in bloom. Many TBs were near peak including 'Crimson Fire' (Schreiner 1990), 'Rainbow Hues' (Ernst 1992), 'Picasso Moon' (Schreiner 2000), 'Anvil Of Darkness' (Innerst 1998), 'Cafe Society' (Ghio 1985) and 'Deliciously Different' (Aitken 2004). From France, we saw 'Helene C' (J. Cayeux by R. Cayeux 1994). Two Blyth irises looked great, 'Romancer' (2000-01), a smoky light mauve with orange beards, and 'Touch Of Mahogany' (1999-00). Three from NZ stood out – 'Southern Autumn' (Ron Busch 1992-93), a cream tinted rose and old gold, over brick red edged cream with gold beards, 'Munro Special' (Gwen Henderson R. 2007), a lavender blue over deep purple edged lighter with yellow beards, and 'Irwell Queen's Dream' (R. Busch R.2007), a light apricot plicata with red copper fall marks.

Next was the beautifuly landscaped garden of Linda and Maurice Barlow in Gordonton. Several water features added interest to this garden including a formal English stone lined rill. Huge clumps of LAs and Spurias were nice but unlabeled. Included were herbaceous borders, ornamental trees and a Celtic parterre or knot feature. TBs included 'About Town' (Blyth 1996-97), 'Decker' (Jameson 2001), 'Bayberry Candle' (DeForest 1969), 'Beverly Sills' (Hager 1979), 'Crimson Snow' (Blyth 1987-88), 'Jurassic Park' (Lauer 1995), 'Thornbird' (Byers 1989), and 'Voltage' (Messick 1993),. A large clump of the historic Siberian 'Caesar's Brother' (Morgan 1932) was stunning.

Also in Gordonton was the Wairere Nursery and Garden. This eleven-acre property looked like any nursery in front and they were doing a brisk business. But we were pleasantly surprised by the tremendous elliptical pond in back lined with hundreds of water lilies, Louisiana irises, Siberians and *I. laevigata Albopurpurea*. Wow!

The last garden of the convention was the fabulous formal garden of Julie and Ian Mayall on Puketaha Road. Julie designed this garden with its specimen plantings and paths leading to various "rooms" around the garden. Low clipped hedges edged the sweeping lawn. Although the irises were not labeled, we recognized 'Crowned Heads' (Keppel 1997), 'Lady Friend' (Ghio 1981) and 'Swingtown' (Schreiner 1996). The convention tours came to an end here with closing words by NZIS president Alison Nicholl.

Earlier in the convention, Phil Brown presented a program of digital images about the Maugatautari Reserve. This is a NZ mountain that has been fenced off to protect the native birds. Non-native species, such as weasels, goats and feral cats have been trapped and removed so that the natives such as kiwi birds can survive and perhaps one day again, thrive. This incredible pest-proof fencing is 47 kilometers (about 30 miles) in circumference.

Maori Haku war dance -photo by Jim Morris

I then addressed the audience, and much like English Prince Harry, did my Haku (war dance) expressions with much cheering by Maggie Asplet and her buddy Wendy Davies. I made a PowerPoint presentation on the AIS California Convention and the newer varieties were a welcome sight for the New Zealanders. We are indeed two countries separated by a lot of ocean and a common language. To wit: gravel roads are "shingle roads," speed bumps are "judder bars," and when you kneel, you "get down on your benders." A crop duster is a "top dresser," take out food is referred to as "take aways," and most everyone says "brilliant!" when they especially like something.

We left sunny, warm NZ spring weather for the St. Louis chilly autumn. We received several inches of snow two days after we arrived home in November.

Maori Te Parapara palisades in garden, N. Island, Hamilton, NZ -photo by Jim Morris

I. laevigata Albopurpurea in Stephanie Boot garden in Bay of Plenty, NZ on N. Island-photo by Jim Morris

Irises Parts, Diversity In The Genus
Part 4: Reproduction

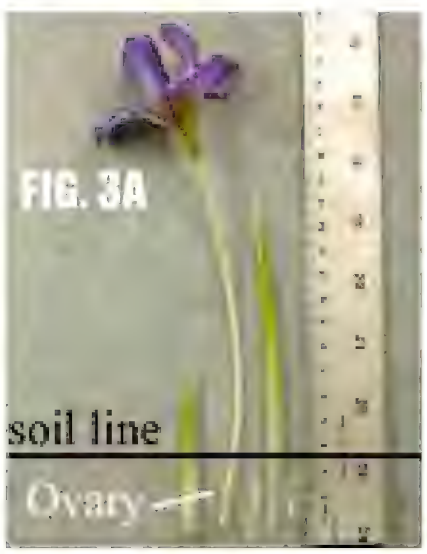
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KENNETH WALKER, CALIFORNIA

This is the fourth and final article in a series that is based on a program I gave for the Sidney B. Mitchell Iris Society. This article looks at iris reproduction.

Figures 1 and 2 provide close-up photos of a flower of *Iris ensata*, the Japanese iris. In Figure 1A, the fall is pressed up tight against the style arm, hiding the reproductive parts of the flower: the stigmatic lip and the stamen. These parts are revealed in Figure 1A where the fall has been pulled down. Some iris flowers provide an opening between the fall and the style arm geared to the size of the species' typical pollinator; examples of these openings can be seen in Figures 4a and 5a.

Like most flowering plants, each iris is both male and female, with each flower containing both male and female parts. The stamen is the male part of the flower. Each cell of the powdery yellow pollen in Figure 1B carries one set of genes for its child plant. The stigmatic lip is tip of the female part of the flower. It is slightly sticky while receptive and receives pollen. Iris flowers have a special mechanism called a stigmatic flap to reduce self-pollination. In Figure 2, a paint brush plays the role of a pollinator, such as a fuzzy bee. A bee lands on the fall of the flower and pushes in under the style arm carrying pollen on its back. In Figure 2A, the brush demonstrates how this inward movement pushes open the stigmatic flap exposing the stigmatic lip to the pollen on the back of the "bee". The bee then bushes new pollen off the stamen onto its back as it moves in and out of the flower when gathering nectar near the base of the stamen. In Figure 2B, the brush demonstrates how outward movement closes the stigmatic flap, preventing the new load of pollen from sticking to the stigmatic lip.

The ovary of the flower is the other end of the female part of the flower. It encloses embryos, each of which contains the other set of chromosomes for the child plant. After pollination, a tube grows from the pollen on the stigmatic lip, down through the style arm and perianth tube, to one of the embryos. The pollen's chromosomes are transferred into the embryo which then develops into a seed (a botanical text book might give a slightly more sophisticated explanation, but that's good enough for our purposes). The distance from the stigmatic lip to the ovary varies considerably between species.



Iris unguicularis is unusual in that the ovary is actually underground. Figure 3A shows a bloom of *Iris uguicularis subs. cretensis* 'Magician's Magic', Diana Nicholls 2001. The bloom was cut at the rhizome and the spathes removed. The figure shows the soil line and identifies the ovary. As the ovary of this species matures into a seed pod, it extents upward until it breaks the surface of the soil. Figure 3B shows the mature seed pod of another cultivar of this species.

Iris seed pods have a 3-fold symmetry, following the symmetry iris flowers as a whole, but the shapes vary considerably among types of irises. As seen in Figure 3B, the pod of *Iris unguicular*is is short and rounded with the symmetry mostly shown by the seams where the pod splits to release seeds. The pods of bearded iris such as *Iris germanica*, Figure 4, are also quite rounded in cross section but are relatively long. In contrast to the latter two irises, the pods of *Iris prismatica*, Figure 5, have three exaggerated seed sections with flaring edges. Spuria irises, such as *Iris monnieri*, Figure 6, have six ridges in 3 pairs. Each pair of ridges delimits the seams of the pod.

Iris seeds take on a variety of sizes and shapes, but most are shades of brown. *Iris foetidissima*, Figure 7, is a stark exception. Seeds of this species are typically deep orange-red, but some varieties have yellow seeds; white seeds are rare but do occur. Not only do the seeds look berry-like, they remain attached to the pod after it spits rather than immediately falling to the ground.

It seems likely that having berry-like seeds is related to seed dispersal, but I haven't heard of any speculation on that topic. On the other hand, it is widely recognized that the arils (white collars around the point of seed attachment) on the seeds of iris such as *Iris stolonifera,* Figure 8, attract ants which disperse the seeds. The top seed in Figure 8B is fresh and the bottom seed is dried. *Iris speculatrix*, Figure 9, does not have an aril on its seeds, but each seed is attached to the pod by a particularly fleshy stalk.

Iris ruthenica, such as "Royal Miniature" Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks 2004, Figure 10A, produce seeds with a sticky appendage that aids in seed dispersal. Figure 10B shows *Iris ruthenica* seeds, both fresh and dried. *Iris verna* has seeds with a similar appendage. Figure 11 shows a flower and seeds of *Iris verna var. smalliana*.

The final step of reproduction occurs when a seed sprouts. Figure 7B shows seedlings of the spuria, *Iris crocea*. Iris seeds sprout roots and leaves, leading to a full cycle of life and eventually back to a flower as shown in Figure 7A.

French Iris Competition 2015

SUBMITTED BY ANNA CADD

The French Iris and Bulbous Plant Society, S.F.I.B conducted the International Iris Competition in May 2015 on the grounds of Parc Floral de La Ville de Paris - FRANCIRIS® 2015. It was a beautiful Iris Competition and it's starting to be one of the most prestigious in Iris World.

The contest brought together 31 breeders from around the world: Australia, USA, Russia, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, and France. The Competition was judged by two Judges from USA (Kathy Chilton and Jill Bonino), one Judge from Italy (Augusto Blanco), one from Czech Republic (Zdenek Seidl) and one from France (Sylvain Ruaud).

From left: Augusto Bianco, Jill Bonino, Zdenek Seidl, Kathy Chilton, Sylvain Ruaud

Franciris 2015 Contest Results: Philippe de Vilmorin Prize awarded by the International Jury:

1st Place - 'Barbe Noire' (Richard Cayeux R. 2012, TB)
2nd Place - 'Cielo Alto' (Angelo Garanzini, NR)
3rd Place - 'Clotho's Web' (Anton Mego 2010, TB)

Public Award by garden visitors to Parc Floral:

1st Place - 'Barbe Noire' (Richard Cayeux R. 2012, TB)
2nd Place - 'Ferragosto' (Lorena Montanari 2009, TB)
3rd Place - 'Caresse d'un Soir' (Alain Chappelle R. 2010, TB)

'Barbe Noire' (Richard Cayeux R. 2012, TB)

The Long Road to a New Iris in India
Part 1

BY AARON FLODEN, ENGLAND AND JAMES WADDICK, MISSOURI

This is a tale to suggest the twists and turns that come between discovery of a new species of iris and its appearance in a garden near you. The road is never straight; there are starts and stops and there may be rage and joys along the way.

Peter Boardman
-photo provided by Pete Boardman

It begins in the far northeastern India state of Arunachal Pradesh (AP). You need only look at a map of India to see that it borders Tibet (China), Myanmar, and Bhutan, with only a sliver of connection to the rest of India. It is the least populous state in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. It is predominantly mountainous in the foothills of the Himalayas. Its southern border is with Assam and Himalayan peaks on its northern, disputed border with China. Climates range from subtropical to alpine and even tundra at the highest reaches. Its largest borders are with China and Myanmar and are the cause of some political conflicts and 'issues'. Travel to and within AP is difficult. The visa process requires a certified travel guide to get a permit to the politically sensitive AP. International flights route through Delhi or Kolkata (Calcutta), and then to Dibrugarh in Assam. Travel by car in Assam and AP is difficult and slow, frequently hampered by the lack of decent roads, landslides, rock slides, monsoon swollen rivers, lack of bridges, and more. It is little explored although it has a great potential for discovery in the rich flora there.

So with this setting the stage, it might seem obvious that India was a huge magnet for early plant exploration especially during the time when England held sway over the country. There was great interest in new Rhododendrons, Magnolias and flowering plants. Adventurous botanists such as Frank Kingdon-Ward (1885-1958) lured readers with tales of plant hunting in the Himalayas.

And so it was that on 17 June of 2009, an adventurous plantsman named Peter Boardman went on a trek through the upper reaches of AP. He took a couple of pictures of an unknown Iris and on his return he passed the pictures around for identification. I must introduce the cast of characters at this time. Although the first person writer is the second author, James Waddick, the travels and real adventure are those of the primary writer and plant hunter, Aaron Floden.

So this story really begins in November of 2009 when Anne Blanco-White, a stalwart of the British Iris Society, shared these two pictures with me along with this message from Peter Boardman:

"I enclose two scans of the Iris that I saw in Arunachal Pradesh three weeks ago. The location is just to the east of the Siang River (Brahmaputra) at an altitude of 9500'. I only saw it at this one location. The area is very wet but well drained with very few grazing animals or people to disturb it, the soil is acidic."

Mystery Iris from Arunachal Pradesh -photo by Pete Boardman

These pictures show an Iris that seemed to be an unknown species of crested iris with affinities to *Iris milesii* and *I. tectorum*, but clearly not either of these. The color, a pastel blue-violet immediately grabbed me. The erect stems and plant habit seem ideal for the garden and the potential for hybrids was so interesting .... and the hunt begins.

I sent these pictures around to a few associates that I thought might have some idea or guess about the identity or relationships of this iris including Aaron Floden. I should mention that trying to identify or deduce relationships of any plant from a couple of photos is at best a very chancy roulette. Responses from all reinforced the initial thoughts of a possible new species of crested iris from northeast India.

From 2012 to early 2014 I contacted as many Indian based botanists as I could and received only a couple of responses. Uniformly the response was that they could not collect or export any plants or seeds for me. They were all willing to assist me if I came to India and wanted to 'study' this plant. It became clear to me that only a targeted collecting trip to India might result in seed or plant collection.

The Indian participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity has, by the words of some Indian scientists, hindered the pace of biodiversity discovery due to the unwillingness to share information or allow the exportation of raw natural materials even for scientific study. While this may seem like a problem to the outside world, it has even led to the lack of shared data between the states of India. Furthermore, specimens are generally not allowed to leave the country and collaboration with Indian botanists is usually limited to confirming their identifications. The Convention has become a major blockade to some plant exploration. Fortunately the US has not signed the agreement, at least not yet.

I had corresponded with a friend, Pascal B. in the Netherlands for a while. Pascal is a well-known enthusiast and student of the genus *Arisaema*, the Jack in the Pulpits. He had made a number of trips to various parts of India over the years and observed some rare and new species. He had already traveled to Arunachal Pradesh and was familiar with only a single iris that grew there. There was a clump of an unknown Iris growing near the Mayodia Coffee House, as it is officially known, just below Mayodia Pass. This building is merely a three room building with a kitchen, no electricity, and mostly broken out windows, and is the only place with lodging. The local official who provides access to paying travelers told him the iris was collected in the wild and had yellow flowers. The only yellow-flowered iris reported from India is the Spuria Iris, *I. crocea*, and that was from far western states. Either the Mayodia iris was not yellow or this spuria was thriving far from home.

By a stunning coincidence of timing Pascal said he was planning a return trip to A.P. in spring of 2014 and he would be returning to Mayodia. I also learned that my close friend Aaron Floden was one of his fellow travelers. A third traveler was to be David P. from the University of Vienna (Austria) Botanical Garden. I have known Aaron since he was a teenager in a Kansas City area high school and already a promising botanist. He is now pursuing a PhD degree at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He had hoped to travel to India in 2013, but timing and red tape foiled his attempt to make that trip.

The new plan was for a May - June 2014 trek in AP in two areas of the Mishmi Hills. Hopefully this would coincide with the flowering of this new iris. With the visa forms resubmitted during the late winter of 2013/14 and with additional expediting fees, the wheels were in motion. Shortly before the planned departure, I suggested to Aaron that he apply for an American Iris Society (AIS) Foundation grant for research and fieldwork assistance with the expectation that this would supplement other sources of funding covering his primary research. The goal was to locate the enigmatic Iris at the Mayodia Coffee House and find the local wild population, document its habitat, photograph it, and hopefully collect plants for cultivation. The population that Peter Boardman saw was some distance from the planned trek route and would have required an extra two weeks to complete this trek in addition to the two they had planned. The AIS Foundation provided generous approval and financial support.

After many delays due to the convoluted system for university approved foreign travel, Aaron had his ticket in hand, barely 12 hours before departure. After nearly 30 hours of flight time and waiting in airports, he finally met Pascal and David in Delhi. They travelled together to Dibrugarh in Assam.

Please look for the next chapter of this exciting adventure in the Fall issue of IRISES!

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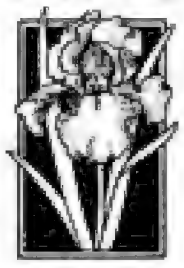

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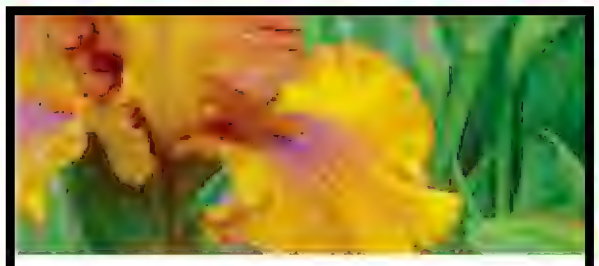

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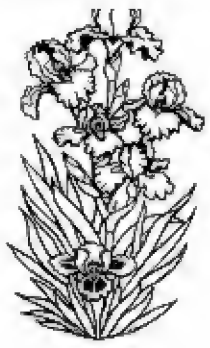

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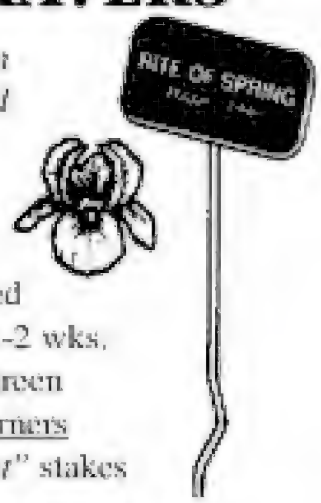

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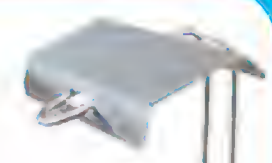

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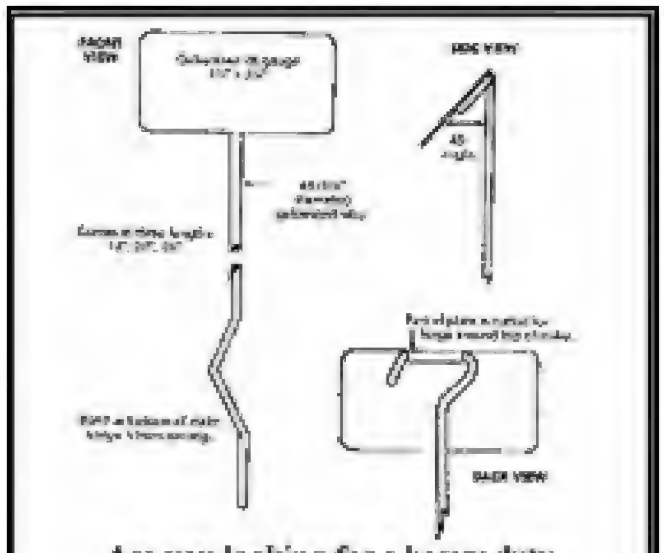

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To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. The advertising editor has a list of specifications for digital submissions. We accept only MS Word, .pdf, .jpg or .indd files. Photos must be sent separately from word or InDesign documents. All .jpg files must be high resolution (minimum 1600x1000). Payment is due when ad copy is submitted. Issues are published the first month of the quarter. The deadlines for ad submissions are: November 15 (Winter issue), February 15 (Spring issue), May 15 (Summer issue) August 15 (Fall issue).

Send digital ad copy to the editor <aiseditor@irises.org>. Send payment (payable to AIS) to Gordon Carver
448 Azle Hwy., Weatherford, TX 76085-8451; 817.594.4537; < gcarver@flash.net >

Reminder: Your display ad is due to the editor by August 15 for the fall issue. Send payment to Gordon Carver (address above)

- Email the files to <aiseditor@irises.org> or
- Post files to share using a cloud file transfer (dropbox.com or other) or
- Mail a DVD or flash drive to Fall Guest Editor: Jane Milliman, 1140 Ridge Crest Drive, Victor, NY 14564

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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues.
All ads, color or black and white are same cost.

2" ad.....2.25" w x 2" h $60.00
3" ad.....2.25" w x 3" h $80.00

Display Advertising

Color:

1/8 page, interior page.....3.65"w x 2.5"h $50.00
¼ page, interior page.....3.65"w x 4.875"h $100.00
½ page, horizontal, interior page .....7.5"w x 4.875"h $200.00
½ page vertical, interior page.....3.65"w x 9.875"h $200.00
Full page, interior page .....8.5"w x 11"h.....$400.00
4 consecutive issue discount
½ page interior page.....$175.00 each
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Color Cover:

½ page inside front or ½ page inside back cover $300.00
Full page inside front or inside back cover $600.00
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3/4 page outside back cover..... 8.5"w x 9"h.....$600.00

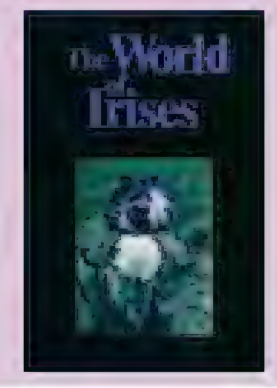
Discount for ad placed in 2 issues within same year

Take out any size and location display advertisement in any issue of IRISES for the normal price as listed and run that same size advertisement in any issue within the same year for ½ the price of the original advertisement. (The second advertisement within the same year is ½ price—it does not have to be the same advertisement.

AIS STOREFRONT Sale Items & Publications

All prices include shipping and handling

The World of Irises Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen. 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. $19.00, Canada $25.00, International $35.00.



Handbook for Judges and Show Officials:
Seventh Edition, 2007
Insert (new pages): USA $16.00,Canada $22.00, International $32.00.
Insert w/cover: USA $19.00, Canada $25.00, International $35.00.

Basic Iris Culture Booklet. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs and shows. New and in color.
Single copy: USA $7.00, Canada $8.00, International $10.00.
Packet of 25: USA $82.00, Canada $105.00, International $119.00

***AIS Bulletins:* Back Issues**
Current year and last year: USA $8.00, Canada $11.00, International $15.00.
Older issues (not all available): USA $5.00, Canada $8.00, International $12.00.
Pk of 25: USA $18.00, Canada $34.00, International $45.00.
Pk of 50: USA $27.00, Canada $51.00, International $65.00.

Check Lists: Ten-year compilation for registrations
1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979 Reprint. Soft Cover.
USA $9.00, Canada $15.00, International $25.00.
1989 & 1999 (Hard Cover):
USA $9.00, Canada $15.00, International $25.00.
2009: 941 pages
Soft Cover Book: USA $25.00, Canada $48.00, International $66.00.
Hard Cover Book: USA $34.00, Canada $57.00, International $75.00.

Registrations and Introductions:
Year 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014: USA $13.00 each, Canada $14.00 each, International $16.00 each.
Year 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: USA $4.00 each, Canada $5.00 each,
International $8.00 each.

50th Anniversary Bronze Medal: Antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes and special awards.
Each: USA $3.00, Canada $5.00, International $8.00.
Package of 10: USA 18.00, Canada $21.00, International $26.00.

RVP Pins (outgoing RVPs only) $35
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2015 AIS Iris Calendars:
USA $4.00, Canada $6.00, International $8.00.
Packet of 10 USA $24.00, Canada $28.00, International $36.00.

2016 AIS Iris Calendars:
USA $7.00, Canada $9.00, International $11.00.
Packet of 10 USA $46.00, Canada $50.00, International $60.00.

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)
3 packs USA $4.00; Canada $6.00, International $8.00.
10 packs USA $12.00; Canada $16.00, International $25.00.

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Price per packet

USA $7.00, Canada $8.00, International $11.00. Order by Theme # or Theme Name. (Pictures of Theme #1-Garden Delight are shown on the AIS Website).

AIS Seals: Self-adhesive ovals. Official design in blue and green on silver background.
Pack (50 per pack): USA $5.00, Canada $7.00, International $10.00.
5 Packs: USA $12.00, Canada $15.00, International $18.00.

AIS "Invitation To Join" Flyers:

Order in packets of 25.
First packet of 25 (1 packet per affiliate) Free.
Additional packet of 25: USA $7.00; Canada $10.00; International $12.00). Order from Exhibition Chair (Show Supplies) or AIS Storefront.

Convention Handbook: Guidelines for planning/ hosting a Spring National Convention and Fall Board Meeting. Free

Dream Gardener: Pioneer Nurseryman Bertrand H. Farr by George Edmonds. (Limited Supply)
USA $20.00, Canada $25.00, International $36.00.

Publications now available through the AIS Storefront:

The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower, Second Edition
USA $30.00; Canada $33.00, International $37.00.

Marie Caillet (1915-2010)
A special publication by the Society of Louisiana Iris honoring Marie Caillet.
USA $18.00, Canada and International $21.00.

Median Iris Society 50th Anniversary History Edition of The Medianite
USA $25.00, Canada $28.00, International $30.00.

For additional item descriptions and price updates, check the AIS Website: www.irises.org/Member Services/Storefront

Ordering Information
Shipping and Handling is included in the item price. Prices are in US$.
The AIS can now accept VISA and Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: $10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date, name on card, and phone number. The Storefront ships via media mail where possible. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by the customer. Make checks or money orders payable to The American Iris Society.

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Reita Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107 <sjordan@unm.edu>

Tall Bearded Iris Society:

Hugh Stout, 432 NE 70th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-1210; (405) 843-7130 <Hugh@stoutgardens.com>

Ramona Howard, P. O. Box 6991, Lubbock, TX 79493 <rhoward3604@sbcglobal.net>

AIS Sections (in order by charter date)
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Judy Eckhoff, 7911 S. Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543; 620-931-5114 <judy67543@gmail.com>

Society for Siberian Irises:

Chuck Simon, 10 S. 122 Lorraine Drive, Willowbrook, IL 60527; 630-323-5070

Lori E.Lanford, 3053 Willoughby Road, Mason, MI 48854 517-203- 4050 <ssimembership@yahoo.com>

Spuria Iris Society:

Jim Hedgecock, Route 1, Box 258, Gower, MO 64454-8613 <jim@comancheacresiris.com>

Nancy Price, 32009 S. Ona Way, Molalla, OR 97038-9244 503-829-2928; <flags@molalla.net>

Society for Japanese Irises:

Patrick Spence, PO Box 1062, Lake Stevens, WA 98258 <patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com>

Jody Nolin, 5184 CTY RD 20, Rushsylvania OH 43347 <jody.nolin@gmail.com>

Reblooming Iris Society:

Riley Probst; 2701 Fine Rd., Modesto, CA 95355 209-551-6323 <rprobst02@earthlink.net>

Rose Kinnard, 1649 Madison 504, Fredericktown, MO 63645-8303 <RKinnard@minesmo.org> website: www.rebloomingiris.com

Dwarf Iris Society:

Bob Pries, 107 Brothers Drive, Roxboro, NC 27574, 336-597-8805 <robertpries@embarqmail.com>

Dave and Deb Miller, 61 Laconwood Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62712 217-529-8014 <Miller42@aol.com>

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises:

Bob Sussman, 12142 Alison Drive, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012 <matilija@gte.net>

Kathleen Sayce, PO Box 91 Nahcotta WA 98637-0091 <ksayce@willapabay.org>

Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA):

Ken Walkup, 22 Cayuga St., Trumansburg, NY 14886-9184 <krw25@cornell.edu>

Rodney Barton, 3 Wolters Street, Hickory Creek, TX 75065 <rbartontx@yahoo.com>

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

Cathy Egerer, PO Box 456, Grand Marais, MI 49839; (906) 494-2570 <pr@historiciris.org>

Judy Eckhoff, 7911 S. Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543, 620-931-5114 <judy67543@gmail.com>

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Jim Leonard, PO Box 82367, Lafayette, LA 70598 < jrleonard@sprintmail.com>

Ron Killingsworth, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060 318-996-9969; <retmiagt@gmail.com>

Novelty Iris Society:

Bonnie J. Nichols, 3365 Northaven Rd., Dallas, TX 75229; (214) 352-2191 <bjnhtn@aol.com>

Kathy Wade, 4304 Vista Ridge Lane, Alvarado, TX 76009; <nisnewsletter@yahoo.com>

Section Membership Rates (contact information above):

If not noted, contact Section for overseas postage rates. All prices shown in U.S. dollars.

	Single Annual	Single Triennial	Dual Annual	Dual Triennial
Aril Society International	$17.50	$50.50	$21.00 *(family)*	$54.00 *(family)*
Lifetime membership: 150.00				
Dwarf Iris Society	$8.00 *(youth $6.00)*	$21.00 *(youth $12.00)*	$10.00	$24.00
E-membership: (Newsletter only in digital file) 6.00				
Historic Iris Preservation Society	$13.00 *(overseas $20)* *(youth $5.00)*	$33.00 (overseas $52.00)	$15.00 *(overseas $22)*	$39.00 (overseas $58.00)
E-membership: $10.00 / Lifetime Membership: Single 225.00, Dual 250.00				
Median Iris Society	$12.00 (overseas $19.50) *(youth $10.00)*	$30.00 (overseas $52.50)	$13.50 (overseas $21.00)	$34.50 (overseas $57.00)
Novelty Iris Society	$15.00	$40.00	$20.00	$50.00
E-membership: $15.00 / Lifetime Membership: Single 150.00				
Reblooming Iris Society	$10.00	$25.00	$12.00	$30.00
Society for Japanese Iris	$10.00	$25.00	$12.00	$31.00
Society for Louisiana Irises	$13.00 (overseas $30.00)	$32.00 (overseas $82.00)	$16.00 (overseas $33.00)	$44.00 (overseas $90.00)
Society for PCNs *Paper copies of Almanac*	$15.00 (overseas $18.00)	$40.00 (overseas $48.00)	n/a	n/a
Electronic copies of Almanac only	$7.00	$19.00		
Society for Siberian Iris	$10.00	$25.00	$12.00	$30.00
Species Iris Group (SIGNA)*	$12.00 (overseas $15.00)	$32.00 (overseas $40.00)	$12.00 (overseas $15.00)	$32.00 (overseas $40.00)
Lifetime membership: $300.00				
Spuria Iris Society	$12.00 (overseas $15.00)	$30.00 (overseas $40.00)		
E-membership	$6.00	$15.00		
Tall Bearded Iris Society	$10.00 (overseas $25.00)	$27.00	$15.00	$41.00
Lifetime membership: 300.00				

2016 AIS SPRING CONVENTION - NEWARK, NJ

By Paul Gosset 2016 Convention Chair

The American Iris Society, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, and Essex County New Jersey are glad to be the host for the 2016 American Iris Society National Convention. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour three beautiful gardens for three days. Presby Memorial Iris Gardens will be visited all day on Thursday, May 26, 2016 and one-half day on the morning of Saturday, May 28, 2016. On Friday, May 27, 2016 you will tour two beautiful gardens in eastern Pennsylvania one in Palmerton (Glenara Gardens of George & Carol Boyce) and one in Slatington (George Hildenbrant Garden). The 2016 Guest Plant Committee has received 1800+ Guest Plants, 888 Varieties, sent by 99 hybridizers. There will also be an Optional Tour available for attendees on Tuesday, May 24, 2016: "Land of The Free" Tour

We leave by bus from our Newark, NJ hotel and head south. On the way we pass the famous Meadowlands Stadium, home to major events, concerts, and the NFL Giants and Jets teams. The majestic and world famous skyscrapers of the New York City skyline are also visible as we travel on to the nation's fifth largest city – historic Philadelphia, PA.

Our destination? The U. S. Independence National Historic Park (www.nps.gov./inde/) where it all began!!! A guided tour will take us back in time to the 1774 gathering of delegates from the 13 original colonies, the first Continental Congress, as they deliberated to form our new nation. We will visit the Liberty Bell and the room where the Declaration of Independence from England was signed in 1776. Here is the beginning of the United States of America, the Land of the Free.

Crossing Philadelphia, we arrive at one of the most historic public gardens and horticultural research and educational institutions in the nation – the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (www.morrisarboretum.org). There we will have lunch and then tour the beautiful and expansive grounds including the iris plantings and five of Pennsylvania's oldest and largest trees. We will also see a spectacular willow "stickwork" sculpture as featured on CBS-TV and stroll the "Tree Adventure", a walkway fifty feet high in the tree canopy. Morris Arboretum is a truly unique and memorable experience!!

After this opportunity to celebrate America's heritage and to see one of the finest public gardens in the nation, it is back to our hotel.

The host hotel will be the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel located on the grounds of the Newark Liberty International Airport with free shuttle service to and from the airport to ALL terminals. Newark, New Jersey is located across the river from New York City, where there are many things to attend and see.

AIS Conventions

"East We Go In 2016"

2016: May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey

2016 Convention Chair: Paul W. Gossett
1502 S. Boulder #12B, Tulsa, OK 74119
Phone: (918) 853-6204 <pwgossett@juno.com>

2016 Convention Co-Chair: George Boyce
520 Dairy Road, Palmerton, PA 18071-5923
Phone: (610) 824-8198 or (607) 857-8732
<glenara@aol.com>

2016 Convention Headquarters:
Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel, 1 Hotel Road, Newark, NJ 07114
Phone: (973) 623-0006
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ewrap-newark-liberty-international-airport-marriott/

2017: May 23-27, Des Moines, Iowa

2017 Convention Chair: Kelly Norris
3149 Kentucky Avenue, Bedford, IA 50833
Phone: (515) 777-2356 <kellydn@frontiernet.net>

2017 Convention Co-Chair: Gary White
701 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, NE 68512
Phone: (402) 421-6394 <in2iris@yahoo.com>

2017 Convention Headquarters:
Des Moines Marriott Hotel
700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 245-5500
www.desmoinesmarriott.com

2018: AIS/SLI Convention April 9-14, New Orleans, LA

2018 AIS Conv. Chair: Paul W. Gossett
1502 S. Boulder #12B, Tulsa, OK 74119
Phone: (918) 853-6204 <pwgossett@juno.com>

SLI 2018 Conv. Co-Chair: Joe Musacchia
509 Linda Ann Avenue, Gray, LA 70359
Phone: (985) 209-2917 <1cajunjoe@att.net>

Future Section Conventions

Society for Louisiana Irises

2016: Shreveport, Louisiana

Spuria Iris Convention

2017: Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society, Los Angeles, California

Median Iris Society Mini Convention

2017: May 18-20 Lafayette, Indiana

Fall Board Meetings

2015 November 6 - 7 Omaha, Nebraska

Meeting Chair:
Linda Wilkie, 15115 Grant Circle, Omaha, NE 68116
Phone: (402) 493-3808 <lrwilkie@gmail.com>

Meeting Headquarters:
Hyatt Place Omaha Downtown Old Market
540 S. 12th Street, Omaha, NE 68102
Phone: (402) 513-5500
www.omahadowntownoldmarket.place.hyatt.com

2016 November 4 - 5 Sedona, Arizona

Meeting Chair:
Michelle Snyder, 225 Sky Line Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336
Phone: (928) 282-5867 <aissecretary@irises.org>

Meeting Headquarters:
Hampton Inn Sedona Hotel
1800 W SR Hwy 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336
Phone: (928) 282-4700
http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/arizona/hampton-inn-sedona-FLGSDHX/index.html

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'Swans In Flight ' (Bob Hollingworth 2006, SIB)
Photo by Betty Stephens